

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

April 14, 2003  
1:00 pm

Hearing Room B  
Tapes 38 - 39

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**     **Sen. Bill Fisher, Chair**  
                                  **Sen. Bill Morrisette, Vice-Chair**  
                                  **Sen. Kate Brown**  
                                  **Sen. Ginny Burdick**  
                                  **Sen. Bev Clarno**  
                                  **Sen. Charles Starr**

**STAFF PRESENT:**       **Marjorie Taylor, Administrator**  
                                  **Saranelle Allen, Committee Assistant**

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**     **SB 390 –Work Session**  
  **SB 865 – Public Hearing**

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<b><u>Tape 38, A</u></b>		
008	Chair Fisher	Convenes meeting at 1:13 pm and opens a work session on SB 390.
<b><u>SB 390 – WORK SESSION</u></b>		
009	Chair Fisher	States he is canceling the scheduled public hearing since there is a companion bill passing out of the house this week, so we only need to have a work session today.
015	Sen. Morrisette	<b>MOTION: Moves SB 390 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.</b>
017		<b>VOTE: 5-0</b>
		<b>AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.</b>
		<b>EXCUSED: 1 - C. Starr</b>
020	Chair Fisher	<b>The motion CARRIES.</b>
	Chair Fisher	<b>SEN. FISHER will lead discussion on the floor.</b>
		Closes work session on SB 390 and opens a public hearing on SB 865.
<b><u>SB 865 – PUBLIC HEARING</u></b>		
030	Marjorie Taylor	Administrator. Explains the printed bill, and advises of a new SB 865-2 amendment ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).
	Chair Fisher	Explains that a -2 amendment had been recently prepared and may not have been seen by all who wished to testify. Advises there may eventually be a -3 amendment.
088	Adam Grad	Digital Healthcare. Introduces John Root and Ed Eagles in attendance as well. Testifies in support of SB 865 ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ), and explains the technology of his company and how it could assist with billing issues.
		Gives details of the 'pay and chase' process for medical claims.
280	Sen. Morrisette Grad	Asks question on cost savings and what the advantages would be. Replies concerning the features and efficiencies of an automated system.
419	Jacqueline Zimmer-	Director, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and

	Jones	Disabilities. Testifies on a pilot program enacted during the last session for Washington and Multnomah Counties to assist veterans navigate the VA system and fight denial of benefits. The program also helped veterans who weren't aware of their eligibility for government benefits ( <b>EXHIBIT C</b> ). Requests continuation of this pilot program through HB 3609.
<b>Tape 39, A</b>		
116	Jeff Hill	Washington County, Aging and Veteran Services Agency. Gives further information on the pilot program.
	Chair Fisher	Asks several questions on claim processing time.
164	Walter Crews	Legislative Representative for Non-Commissioned Officers Association. Testifies in opposition to SB 865, and any reference to veterans. Explains he has no problems with the -2 amendment.
	Dennis Hoopman	Speaks in opposition to SB 865, but has no problem with the -2 amendments. Testifies on health issues.
270	Joan Kopawich	Department of Human Services. Reviews pay and chase procedures and that the government does have a program of waivers on pharmacies.
312	Sen. Morrisette	Asks several questions on private carriers and reimbursement from the state.
	Elizabeth Lopez	Department of Human Services. States the ability to identify primary carriers is in the system. Had come to discuss the main bill, but not versed on the -2 amendments.
	Chair Fisher	Asks how many pharmacies are being looked into for the pay and chase program from the Federal government.
414	Chair Fisher Jon Mangis	Asks Kopawich to get the figures for the pay and chase. Director, Department of Veterans' Affairs. States he had planned to oppose SB 865, as a bill, but unclear on the anticipated proposed amendments. Expresses some issues in the process of applying and receiving benefits from the Federal system.
<b>Tape 38, B</b>		
	Sen. Brown	Asks about the time involved in processing a claim, and the pilot program mentioned earlier.
	Chair Fisher	Asks if there was a way for an outside company to get veteran eligibility for health care.
160	Tom Holt	Oregon State Pharmacists Association. Would like to express a minor concern on the -2 amendments having to do with the pharmacy claims. Asks for a member of the pharmacy group to be included in further discussions on amendments.
	Chair Fisher	Raises several questions on available dollars and payments to veterans. Asks how benefits are disbursed thru the computer system.
230	Grad	Would like to do some research further to answer any questions from Chair Fisher. Explains how the computer prioritizes primary, and secondary insurance companies.
	Chair Fisher	Closes public hearing on SB 865 and adjourns meeting at 2:36 p.m.

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A – SB 865, proposed -2 amendment, staff, 2 p.**

**B – SB 865, written testimony, Adam Grad, 13 pp.**

**C – SB 865, written testimony, Jacqueline Zimmer-Jones, 5 pp.**