

## ***The system for workers is broken***

and we need IMMEDIATE action and meaningful reform!

Beyond Toxics 5-point plan for ***meaningful reform for worker protections:***

1. **Burden of Proof:** Reporting a work-related injury or illness is always a protected activity. Workers must be allowed to seek medical care in a timely fashion without fear of being fired or threat of retribution. In cases of worker injury or illness on the job, there must be proof that no retaliation has or will take place. The State must establish policies that change the burden of proof from the employee to the employer. We need employer accountability to show that workers are treated fairly and no retaliation takes place when an employee reports a work-related injury or illness, including illnesses from exposure to pesticides.
2. **Respect Injured Workers Seeking Compensation:** Ensure that workers can file Workers Compensation Claims without employer retribution. Many workers are harassed and discouraged when reporting unsafe work practices that result in injury or when applying for Worker's Compensation claims. Many are threatened with losing their job.
3. **Audit Workers Compensation Companies:** The State should perform an audit on Workers Compensation insurance companies. Insurance companies are putting workers through unreasonable and repetitive scrutiny before they are able to get help paying medical bills so they can get back to work.
4. **Don't Blame the Injured Victim:** OR-OSHA should be the worker's ally when injured on the job, including chemical exposure injuries. OR-OSHA must perform more unannounced on-site inspections to ensure that employers are preventing pesticide exposures for all workers, whether that worker is an applicator or a truck driver. By law, companies must provide protective equipment, eye wash stations, hand wash stations, access to clean and sanitary places to eat on their break, clean drinking water and proper training and licensing for pesticide use.
5. **Peril of Life and Health?** : No worker should be subjected to the risk of losing life and limb while on the job. No workplace use of a pesticide should endanger members of the public through drift or residue. Oregon must reform state pesticide laws to uphold a high standard of human health, including keeping pesticides out of drinking water and protecting schools, homes and organic farms from pesticide drift.