

Robert Louis DeLaRosa
372 D. Welton Way
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March 13, 2006

Bill #
5798

To Whom It May Concern:

First I would like to start off by thanking you for giving myself and others the opportunity to voice our opinions and hopefully justify why we should also be considered under Senate Bill No. ~~4438~~ 5798

My unfortunate predicament began on October 24, 1998 when I responded to a code at Cheshire Corrections while on duty as a Corrections Officer. During the code, I was assaulted by an inmate resulting in permanent injury to my left shoulder, lower back and cervical spine. Due to my injuries and surgeries I was forced to retire on medical disability even though I truly did not want to. Over the years my physical health has progressively gotten worse. Due to the severity of my injuries, I had to have a triple fusion in my neck including my C4-C5, C5-C6, & C6-C7 disks, which has restricted my range of motion and has changed my life forever -- and not for the better. Just recently an MRI has proved that due to the fusion, I am having complications with the discs above the plate in my neck. My surgeon, Dr. Waitze, has stated that I have a herniation above the fusion and although surgery is an option, it is a very significant and risky surgery that would require removing the anterior cervical plate that is currently fused. Even though I had the surgery, I still suffer each and every day -- whether it is missing my son's school play or baseball game due to a massive head pain or the stress of not knowing whether I will be able to take part in anything until minutes beforehand due to the quick onset of the pain and sickness that overcomes me at times. There are many days when I can't even get out of bed. I've gone from being a strong man who was in prime physical condition to a man who has deteriorated to a point where I can't lift anything over 10lbs without paying the consequences. I no longer have the ability to do some of the simple things in life that I used to take for granted.

In addition to my cervical injuries, I also suffer from pain in my lower back and a bad left shoulder. A discogram was done and test results showed that L1-S1 disks is the site of additional disc herniations. Based on the pain in my lower back at this point in time, have no doubt that this will also progressively get worse and lead to another surgical operation. For those of you who haven't experience trouble with your back -- when your back hurts -- it is basically hard to do or enjoy anything. Your back is involved in almost any movement you make -- even sleeping or should I say lack of. I can't even enjoy a normal sex life with my wife or carry my son to bed.

The severity of my injuries will prevent me from ever being able to work again and that is why I am here today to respectfully ask for your consideration for inclusion under Senate Bill No. ~~4438~~. I realize I have only given you a brief overview of all that I have gone through and what I will have to face in the future but I am hoping it gives you some insight to the pain and suffering I have to deal with each and every day. As well as shed some light on the fact that individuals who have suffered injury prior to 2005 also deserve the same recognition in regards to Senate Bill ~~4438~~. Not one of us is less worthy than the other. We were all just doing our job and became unfortunate victims at no fault of our own. I would eternally be grateful if you would refrain from making myself, and others hurt prior to 2005, a victim once again by excluding us from Senate Bill ~~4438~~ 5798

Once again I want to thank you for your consideration, time and attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert L DeLaRosa

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