

Testimony of the  
Connecticut Workers' Compensation Coalition (As of 5/11/05)  
Before the Judiciary Committee  
March 24, 2006

Associated Builders & Contractors of CT	Greater Hartford Property Owners Association
Associated General Contractors of CT	Greater Manchester Chamber Of Commerce
Assoc. Sheet Metal & Roofing Contractors of CT	Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce
Avon Chamber Of Commerce	Greater New Haven Chamber Of Commerce
Bloomfield Chamber Of Commerce	Greater Norwalk Chamber Of Commerce
Branford Chamber of Commerce	Greater Valley Chamber Of Commerce
Bridgeport Regional Business Council	Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
Canton Chamber Of Commerce	Home Builders Association of CT
CBIA'S Manufacturer's Council	Independent Electrical Contractors of New England
Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce	Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut, Inc.
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT	Limousine Operators of CT
Cheshire Chamber of Commerce	Madison Chamber of Commerce
CT Assoc. Chain Drug Stores	Manufacturers Assoc. of New Haven County
CT Assoc. of Equipment Dealers	Mason Contractors Association of CT
CT Assoc. of Temporary & Staffing Services	Mechanical Contractors Association of CT
CT Automotive Trades Association	Metro Hartford Alliance
CT Bankers' Association	Middlesex Chamber Of Commerce
CT Beer Wholesalers Association	Milford Chamber Of Commerce
CT Bituminous Producers Association	Motor Transport Association of CT
CT Bowling Proprietors Association	National Federation of Independent Businesses/CT
CT Business & Industry Association	National Electrical Contractors Association
CT Chemical Council	National Retail Lumber Association
CT Construction Industries Association	New Britain Chamber of Commerce
CT Council of Painting and Decorating	Newington Chamber Of Commerce
CT Credit Union Association, Inc.	North Central Chamber of Commerce
CT Crushed Stone Association	Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce
CT Farm Bureau	Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association of
CT Food Association	America
CT Hospital Association	Plainville Chamber Of Commerce
CT Irrigation Contractors Association	PPUC-Environmental Industry Council
CT Lodging Association	Printing Industry of CT & Western MA
CT Marine Trades Association	Quinnipiac Chamber Of Commerce
CT Metalworking Network	Rocky Hill Chamber Of Commerce
CT Movers & Warehousemen's Association	Simsbury Chamber Of Commerce
CT Nursery and Landscape Association	Smaller Manufacturers Association of CT
CT Plastics Council	Southwestern Area Commerce & Industry Association of CT
CT Ready Mixed Concrete Association	South Windsor Chamber Of Commerce
CT Retail Merchants Association	Stamford Chamber of Commerce
CT Restaurant Association	Towing & Recovery Professionals of CT
CT Road Builders Association	Utility Contractors Association of CT
CT Roofing Contractors Association	Waterbury Region Chamber of Commerce
CT Tooling & Machinery Association	Western CT Industrial Council
CT Veterinary Medicine Association	West Hartford Chamber of Commerce
East Hartford Chamber Of Commerce	Wethersfield Chamber Of Commerce
Fairfield Chamber of Commerce	Wilton Chamber Of Commerce
Farmington Chamber Of Commerce	Wine & Spirit Wholesalers of CT
Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce	Windham Region Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bristol Chamber Of Commerce	
Greater Danbury Chamber Of Commerce	

The business organizations listed on the cover sheet of this testimony represent Connecticut employers, ranging from small businesses to large industrial corporations.

This group formed in the late 1980's because workers' compensation costs were skyrocketing. Many Connecticut employers were crippled by workers' compensation costs. We spent months studying the workers' compensation system. We identified problems, and solutions to those problems, so that Connecticut's workers' compensation system could be reformed. We continue to stand united to ensure that great strides made in the early nineties stay intact and that no new measures increasing workers' compensation costs or placing other burdens on employers are adopted.

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We, the abovementioned organization, ***oppose SB 548 An Act Concerning Awards for Workers' Compensation for Scarring and Disfigurement.***

This measure repeals an important reform measure by granting scarring and disfigurement benefits regardless of where they are located or the impact it has on the claimants earning ability.

The Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (LPRIC) recommended the reform measure. They did so in part because they learned during their investigation of the state's workers' compensation system that awards were only supposed to be granted for permanent significant disfigurement. Despite this LPRIC found that "Disfigurement awards received in cases included in the sample range from \$83 to \$20,808." They stated that "The number of weeks of disfigurement benefits granted, which indicates the severity of the scarring involved, ranged from 1 to 51 weeks and averaged 7.7 weeks." If an award for one week, or \$83 dollars was made, clearly awards were not limited to "significant" scars or disfigurement cases.

Connecticut's standard for scarring awards is the same or more generous than most other states. The overwhelming majority of states restrict disfigurement awards to the face or head. At least 30 states are more restrictive than Connecticut with scarring and disfigurement awards.

Connecticut's current benefit is fair and does not need to be changed. This measure would put Connecticut significantly out of line with other states and should be rejected.

Thank you.