

To: Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee

From: Catherine Cormier

Date: 3/14/2006

Re: H.B. No. 5740 An Act Concerning Ergonomics And Workplace Safety

As a medium sized manufacturer in Middlesex County, Tower Laboratories would be greatly impacted should the above HB 5740 bill be passed. It is our opinion that the expectations it sets forth for the safety committee members are unrealistic. The requirements of this proposed bill would necessitate additional resources that we do not currently have and add significant expenses to our Company with questionable benefit.

Line item 50 (1) requires the safety committee to conduct an analysis of medical records and employee complaints to conclude patterns of ergonomic related injuries or illnesses. Our safety committee members are made up of employees from various production and office jobs and different departments, none of whom are ergonomic experts that can make these analyses and conclusions. This would require hiring an ergonomic specialist at consultant rates adding significant cost.

The additional requirements of line item 57 (2), (3) and (4) of analyzing individual jobs and tasks, interviewing employees, conducting surveys and creating a detailed ergonomic policy would require a full time or part time ergonomist on staff as our jobs and job tasks frequently change over time.

In the past, our safety committee has addressed ergonomic issues in a proactive manner when necessary, which included retaining the appropriate outside expertise. We think this bill's mandated requirements are excessive and unnecessary. We request this bill be rejected.

Thank you for expressing our concerns during this public hearing taking place Tuesday morning.

Catherine Cormier
HR Manager
Tower Laboratories, Ltd.
www.towerlabs.com
ph: 860-767-2127
Fax: 860-767-2129