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Re: Statement in Opposition to Bills Enhancing Workers' Compensation Benefits

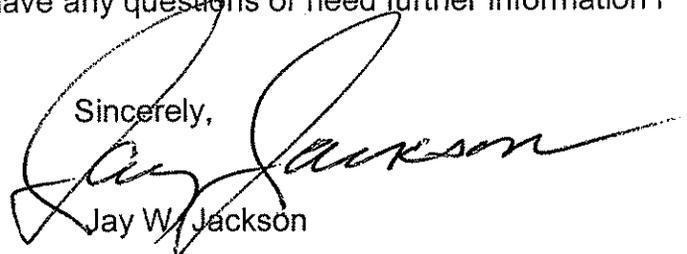
SB 153 – An act concerning scarring awards under the Workers Compensation Act
SB 171 – An act allowing additional workers' compensation award
SB 172 – An act requiring respondents to request hearings
SB 399 – An act concerning delays by insurers in paying claims
SB 400 – An act concerning dependents of deceased workers' comp claimants
SB 403 – An act concerning time limits for dispositions of workers' comp claims
SB 845 – An act concerning light duty work under Workers Comp Act
SB 847 – An act concerning additional benefits for wage loss under Workers Comp Act
SB 1036 – An act concerning notification of the discontinuance or reduction of benefits
HB 5697 – An act concerning med treatment decisions of workers comp commissioners
HB 6959 – An act concerning workers comp rehab counselors

Dear Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the Labor Committee:

This statement is being given on behalf of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) which is a national property and casualty insurance company trade association that represents over 1000 member companies. Direct workers' compensation premiums written in Connecticut amounted to 26% of the workers' compensation market. SB 153, SB 171, SB 172, SB 399, SB 400, SB 403, SB 845, SB 847, SB 1036, HB 5697, and HB 6959 dealing with increased workers' compensation benefits should not be given favorable consideration by your committee. While individual claimants would benefit from the increased benefits, you must realize that any increased benefits must be paid for from revenues generated from increased premiums. Connecticut businesses, particularly small businesses, are struggling to make ends meet and would be adversely affected by premium increases.

Therefore, I urge you on behalf of PCI to maintain the status quo and not give favorable consideration to the bills listed above. If you have any questions or need further information I would be happy to provide same.

Sincerely,



Jay W. Jackson

JWJ/lmc