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I would like to speak to the following bills.

Bill 845—light duty under the workers' compensation act

Bill 1037—unreasonable delays of workers' comp hearings.

Bill 187—requiring notice of the availability of worker's compensation to an injured worker. ¹⁰³⁶

Bill RSB - 845

When I got injured at UPS, I can remember that management didn't want me out of work. Even though their own prescribed doctor had told me to work light-duty—arriving at UPS they saw my papers and said – “well why don't you do pick-off for tonight.” As if that was light duty. Picking off boxes meant handling up to 1600 boxes an hour. The second day, I fought with them to get real light duty.

But now some businesses are getting even more arrogant. They are telling workers that they must come in on different shifts or different days than their regular schedule. They are telling them work at different sites. What does that mean for a parent who already has a schedule to be with her/his child at that time? What does that mean for someone who has to work a second job (that may not be hindered by their injury) and would have to quit it—in order to maintain his or her worker's comp case?

And when did the employer's status change from supervisor to master? Now they own us? Worker's should go back to work, and act in good faith, if there is suitable work for them—at a schedule that works for them—but let's not give so much power to businesses that they can dictate to the worker to come at anytime or anyplace. That really does move the worker into the category of slave. Please support workers of this state by voting for bill RSB 845.

Bill PSB 187 ¹⁰³⁶

In a recent (very informal) survey, I asked 10 different people what do they do if they get hurt on the job. Eight of them had no clue. But none of them knew what a 30c form was.

The 30c form is the paperwork that puts into process your coverage under worker's compensation. But if nobody knows what it is—its purpose becomes mainly a hindrance.

Worker's compensation was set up to be a simple system that all workers' could navigate. Now it's become the exclusive domain of lawyers. There's absolutely no reason why employers shouldn't be expected to hand all injured workers a 30c form so that workers could fill it out—and take care of that most important obligation. But just as important—that 30c form should have the state's worker's comp education's free telephone number (1 800 223 WORK)

Let's put an end to the many workers who are left unattended medically, or aren't compensated for their injury due to ignorance of how the system works.

Bill RSB 1037

I work at a nonprofit agency—ConnectiCOSH (the Connecticut Council on Occupational Safety and Health). We are registered with 211 as an advocate for injured workers. We receive calls weekly from workers who are struggling with the system.

The greatest cause of alarm is the fact that so many workers are not getting their most basic medical treatment met. Workers are waiting weeks and even months in order to get medical treatment. This means that the system is not working.

The insurance companies have no incentive to act in good faith. The more they delay, the less they pay. I want to support a suitable increase in this fine (jail time would be more appropriate).

But medical treatment should be fail-safe. I would also like to urge the labor committee to support a presumptive eligibility clause—that would allow all workers who are hurt on the job to receive the extent of medical treatment that the doctor says is necessary while the hearings are taking place. There's no excuse for the delay in treating workers who have gotten sick or hurt on the job.