Proposed Bill No. 363: WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Five years ago (2004), I suffered work-related injuries to my cervical, thoracic, lumbar and pelvic spine, and shoulders while lifting heavy merchandise. I suffered in excruciating pain for several years before I was given proper medical attention. It took over 1 year for physical therapy to be authorized by Sedgwick Insurance Company for my work-related back injuries. At that time, I went through 12 weeks of physical therapy, however; these injuries have worsened due to the lack of medical attention since that time.

For nearly 3 years, I suffered with a dislocated shoulder (continually misdiagnosed) and worked that way, until I was properly diagnosed and was operated on. I underwent complete reconstructive surgery on my right dominant shoulder (8/8/2007) and have permanent work restrictions and permanent partial disability. I was forced to go through major surgery in an outpatient clinic where I could have died.

Both the Workers Compensation Commission and the attorneys representing Sedgwick Insurance Company continually informed me that one body part at a time needed to be addressed. I have pleaded for necessary back treatment since 2005, however; those requests have remained unaddressed. It is very difficult for me to sit or stand for very long and it is difficult for me to lift my right leg to walk up stairs.

I have been harassed to make a settlement for my claims. I have been advised to not make a settlement until all of my work-related injuries are properly evaluated and treated. I have had to terminate 3 attorneys that were supposed to be acting in my behalf, but only pressured me into a settlement without medical care.

It is imperative for all injured workers to receive access to health care as would be provided under Proposed Bill No. 363.

Christina M. Winslow P.O. Box 1364 New Britain CT 06050-1364