

Testimony of Brian Green on the Governor's budget recommendations for the  
Workers' Compensation Commission  
Appropriations Committee  
February 23, 2011

It is a pleasure to speak out in favor of funding the Workers Rehabilitative Services Unit of the Connecticut Workers Compensation Fund. My name is Brian Green, and I was injured on the job (McDonald's Corporation) back on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, after spending almost 25 years in various forms of management with McDonald's.

After taking almost two years to adjudicate, I had successful back surgery in May of 2006, went through rehabilitation, and then applied to the Workers Rehabilitation Services program in the fall of 2006. I was accepted into the program and began my studies at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich in January 2007. With the support of the WRS program (paying for tuition, fees, and textbooks) and my family, I was able to obtain my Associate of Science-Business Administration (cum laude) in only 18 months-graduating in May of 2008. After graduation I started working at an orthodontic practice as a financial coordinator. Unfortunately due to the economy, I was laid off in February of 2009. After long conversations with my wife, we thought it best that I continued my education to make myself more marketable.

I began my studies at Eastern Connecticut State University in June of 2008, this time working toward a Bachelor of Science-Accounting. I just graduated from ECSU in December, again cum laude, and again in 18 months. I completed a 7 month internship with the State of Connecticut-Auditors of Public Accounts in January 2011, and on February 1<sup>st</sup>, started working full time as a Staff Accountant with Shane, Navratil, and Company, CPA's in Willimantic. I am currently attending the University of Hartford working towards a Master of Science in Accounting and Taxation. I am slated for a December 2012 graduation date, at which time I will have the minimum qualifications necessary to sit for the CPA Exam.

In summary, without the help of a top notch attorney navigating me through the workers compensation system, and the Workers Rehabilitative Services Unit, I would not be on the track I am today. The service provided me the opportunity to go back to school to get a degree relative to what is needed in today's marketplace. Without the head start given to me, coupled with the awful economy, I would be looking for State aid for the first time in my life! This program helped a very proud middle aged man continue to provide for his family and for that I sincerely thank you!

Please make sure that the WRS program continues to get funded so that injured workers like me are able to be retrained and re-employed in the work force.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Brian Green