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Testimony of William T. Clark of New Britain, Ct., Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee, February 24, 2011, in support of Senate Bill 986 AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AN EMPLOYER'S NOTICE TO DISPUTE CERTAIN CARE DEEMED REASONABLE FOR AN EMPLOYEE UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Senator Prague, Representative Zaleski, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is William T. Clark. I am an injured worker and a resident of New Britain. I support SB 986 An act concerning additional requirements for an employer's notice to dispute certain care deemed reasonable for an employee under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Today I present my testimony to you as a fatality of the Workers Compensation System. In 1994, my death spiral began after an injury at work. My employer mandated that I must be checked out and treated at the facility of their choosing. A manipulation by a physical therapist at this facility necessitated a removal of cervical disks at two levels. Surgery and rehabilitation at my choice of providers was successful.

A subsequent injury where I was hit by a truck, caused an increase in work related injuries. After prolonged treatment on drugs, I became unable to work. My employer was bought out and the new owner brought along a vicious entourage of insurance, legal and medical subcontractors that achieved their goal of forcing me to settle my case. First thought of people outside the injured worker's little world is "nobody FORCED you to settle". The following are just a few experiences of mine.

Monthly denials of medication including narcotics. Repeatedly requiring days without medications

Insurance adjusters saying that getting rid of my attorney would facilitate a more favorable treatment.

Insurance adjusters waiting until the day of a procedure to deny that treatment, some took 90 days to line up.

Insurance adjusters not returning calls when meds were denied.

The stoppage of compensation checks without a previously given reason.

The stringing along method pertaining Workers Compensation hearings. Grovel in pain, have the treatment that will alleviate your pain denied as "solely for the benefit of the provider". Suffer financially, maintain a healthy family environment while attending 35 hearings of different level at Compensation offices.

As we all know, financial backing for Workers Compensation matters is about a billion to one, NOT on the side of workers. Please consider these thoughts in the deliberation of SB986

Thank you committee members.

William T.Clark  
121 Streamside Lane  
New Britain