



February 13, 2017

*Senator Edwin Gomes
Chairman
Labor and Public Employee Committee
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106*

*Senator Craig Miner
Chairman
Labor and Public Employee Committee
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106*

*Representative Robyn Porter
Chairman
Labor and Public Employee Committee
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106*

Dear Senator Gomes, Senator Craig Miner and Representative Robyn Porter:

Thank you for taking the time to conduct a hearing on Senate Bill 376 and your continued interest in ensuring that the workers' compensation system in Connecticut is efficient, effective and fair to workers.

One Call Care Management is the leading provider of healthcare ancillary services in the workers' compensation industry. We offer a variety of services to the injured worker through our networks of physical therapy, diagnostic testing, dental, transportation and translation, home health care and durable medical equipment. Our mission is to ensure that injured workers in Connecticut, and throughout the country, have access to timely and cost-effective care. In 2016 alone, we helped more than 37,000 injured workers receive the best healthcare possible so they could return to work quickly and more productive.

One Call Care Management offers the following comments regarding Senate Bill 376.

Radiology is a Significant Tool to Ensure Immediate Therapy, Providing Injured Workers with the Ability to Promptly Return to Work.

Access to timely quality care for injured workers is of utmost importance to an effective cost containment strategy. Diagnostic tools and One Call's time proven efficient scheduling processes avoid otherwise costly, unnecessary or avoidable treatments. Moreover, indemnity costs are reduced when patients have access to quality and timely diagnostic services. If diagnostic services are compromised, delays in medical treatment can result, thus increasing indemnity and administrative costs.



Over the past few years, Connecticut radiologists have received over a 50% reduction in reimbursement under the Workers' Compensation System. With this reduction, the rate for radiology services is now significantly lower than group health rates in the state. The practice of radiology is much more expensive than other ancillary services, and these scans are integral to the diagnosis of injury, especially in workers' compensation. In addition, we understand that providers are facing similar challenges within the Connecticut Medicaid program.

As you are aware, cuts for radiology services begin a few years ago. When the reductions began, several impacted stakeholders notified the Workers' Compensation Commissioner of the draconian reductions requesting that adjustments be made. As of the date of this comment letter, no relief has been provided to radiologists assisting injured workers. There is also a misconception that if the legislature augments the fee schedule for radiology codes under the workers' compensation statutes, the radiologist will not receive an increase. This is not the case. Our agreements with providers require that with any increase in the radiology fee schedule, there will be a corresponding increase in reimbursement for our providers.

We respectfully request that the Labor Committee consider making an adjustment to these radiology fees to make them competitive with group health rates.

We look forward to our continued commitment to providing critical services to injured workers throughout Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kimberly Rowland'.

Kimberly Rowland, PhD
Manager, Government Relations & Public Affairs
One Call Care Management

cc: The Honorable Senator Cathy Osten

