



TEAMSTERS



Please contact your state Representative and Senator about this issue:

Workers' Compensation is under attack: Corporate executives have their eyes on changes to our workers' compensation system. Lawmakers in Raleigh would do well to look the other way. In these tough economic times, there is no sense in fixing what is not broken and making injured workers pay the price.

Call your Representative & Senator today and urge him or her to, *"oppose House Bill 709 and Senate Bill 544."* Tell your lawmakers that, *"working families back home are counting on legislators to protect our stable workers compensation system and make protecting injured workers—not corporate profits and insurance companies—a priority."*

More Information About the Legislation:

House Bill 709 and Senate Bill 544 have many provisions, some very complicated, but these include provisions that:

- Artificially cut off benefits after 500 weeks in most cases, regardless of whether the worker has any wage earning capacity;
- Severely limit the ability of an injured employee to be treated or evaluated by any doctor except the doctor picked by the employer or the insurance company, and allow benefits to be cut off based upon a claim that the worker is not cooperating;
- Require an injured worker to take almost any job, regardless of pay, or have benefits cut off;
- Give insurance companies almost unfettered rights to examine a worker's medical records and talk to the treating physician, all without the worker's permission;
- Reduces the size of the Industrial Commission by two, eliminating two of the more experienced Commissioners and requiring that future appointments be approved by the legislature.

Please call or email your Representative and Senator as soon as possible and ask him or her to oppose HB 709 and SB 544!

You can look up your elected state lawmakers online: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/GIS/RandR07/Representation.html>.

on the following pages to call your lawmakers directly.

When you call, *be polite*. If no one answers, *leave a message*. Be sure to include your name, phone number, the city or town where you live, and *ask for a response*.

Tips for Talking About Workers' Compensation:

Keep these points in mind when talking to lawmakers or others about Workers' Compensation:

- **Our workers' compensation system is critical to those who are injured in the services of their employers.**
- **We have a stable system, one that provides generally adequate benefits at a modest cost to employers.** NC employers with an average safety record typically pay almost 22% less in premiums in 2010 dollars than 15 years ago.
- **Comp costs are rightly born by the employers of injured workers - not taxpayers.** Proposed changes would shift those costs to taxpayers as workers and their families are forced to rely more on public assistance.
- **Especially in this economy, we don't need more families without an income or with a reduced income.**

Also, make the conversation personal. If you have ever relied on workers' comp or if you know of co-workers or friends who have been injured and dependent on comp benefits, tell these stories to legislators. They need know what it is like to be injured on the job and unable to work. Legislators need to hear how workers comp benefits are a lifeline for injured workers.