



Date: May 5, 2011

To: The Honorable John Cullerton

Re: Workers' Compensation

Dear Senator Cullerton:

Although SB1349 was voted down in a recent floor vote, the critical reform provisions included in that bill are alive and well. This message is to ask your support of a meaningful reform package. The Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry is a 700 business member organization, the Village is home to many headquarters such as Sara Lee, Burns & McDonnell, Dover, Magnetrol and Arrow Gear to name a few. Most of our businesses however are a mirror image of the rest of the U.S., small business. All will be greatly affected by a fair and equitable workers' compensation reform plan. The business community deserves this reform.

The State's current image as anti-business is insensitive to the competitive business climate measures and cost of doing business issues. Our businesses are looking for double digit reductions, on the scale that has been experienced by similar workers' compensation reform efforts undertaken by other populous and leading economic states like Florida, Texas and California. The State of Illinois needs to be conscious of our competitive positions relative to neighboring states of Indiana, Missouri and Iowa.

Specifically, the Illinois Senate must pass workers' compensation reform bill that includes these strong provisions:

- * Redefine workplace injury so that compensated injuries actually occur in the workplace;
- * Use objective guidelines to determine the extent of permanent injuries;
- * Allow employers to set up provider networks to provide quality care;
- * Require strong utilization review provisions in tandem with a reduction in the medical fee schedule.

The time to support real reform is now. Please insist on strong provisions in a Senate workers' compensation reform bill and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like further information. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Laura Crawford

Cc: Senator Ronald Sandack
Senator Kirk Dillard