

Talking About: *Workers Compensation*

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We are not certain yet exactly what type of workers' comp reform the business and insurance lobby will propose. You have a one-page handout that gives our general take on things at this point and which can be given to or left with legislators.

A few specific points you might make in your conversation with legislators:

- **Our workers' compensation system is critical to those who are injured in the services of their employers.** Such employees depend upon the system both for medical care for their injuries and for replacement wages to support themselves and their families.
- **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.
- Reducing benefits, eligibility for benefits, or the quality of medical care that injured workers receive doesn't make much sense when the cost to employers is modest and making such changes would cause harm to families who depend upon the system for their livelihoods.

Especially in this economy, we don't need more families without an income or with a reduced income.

- We would like to talk with you more about this issue and specifics as the legislative session moves forward.

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.