

Legislative Issue Alert:

Workers' Compensation



Prepared by North Carolina State AFL-CIO
James Andrews, President

April 2011
MaryBe McMillan, Secretary-Treasurer

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 lawmakerse 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>.

Call the capital switchboard at 919-733-7928 and ask to be connected to his or her office. You can also use the contact list

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.

N.C. Representatives

<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Office</u>
733-5902	ADAMS	604-LB	733-5865	HURLEY	532-LB
733-5778	ALEXANDER, K.	404-LB	301-1450	ILER	632-LB
733-5807	ALEXANDER, M.	1213	733-5905	INGLE	530-LB
733-5530	AVILA	2217	733-7208	INSKO	603-LB
715-2009	BARNHART	304-LB	733-5974	JACKSON	1019
733-5863	BELL	606-LB	733-5191	JEFFUS	1307
733-5805	BLACKWELL	541-LB	733-5861	JOHNSON	301D -LB
733-5781	BLUST	1229	733-5779	JONES	306A1 -LB
733-5903	BOLES	503-LB	733-7727	JORDAN	418C -LB
733-5820	BORDSEN	602-LB	715-9664	JUSTICE	420-LB
733-5860	BRADLEY	536-LB	733-5746	KEEVER	1317
733-5825	BRANDON	1209	733-5886	KILLIAN	2219
733-5800	BRAWLEY	1313	733-5849	LANGDON	417B -LB
733-5772	BRISSON	1325	715-3017	LAROQUE	635-LB
733-5607	BROWN, L.	303-LB	715-3015	LEWIS	534-LB
715-0873	BROWN, R.	638-LB	733-5775	LUCAS	607-LB
715-4946	BRUBAKER	302-LB	733-7663	LUEBKE	513-LB
733-5878	BRYANT	542-LB	733-5758	MARTIN	1219
733-5908	BURR	538-LB	733-5786	McCOMAS	506-LB
733-5827	CARNEY	1221	733-5654	McCORMICK	2119
715-6707	CLEVELAND	417A -LB	733-6275	McELRAFT	637-LB
733-5802	COLLINS	1006	733-5747	McGEE	634-LB
733-5906	COOK	1303	715-3007	McGUIRT	1015-LB
715-0706	COTHAM	403-LB	733-5956	McGRADY	418A -LB
733-5824	CRAWFORD	1321	733-5757	McLAWHORN	1217
733-5809	CURRENT	418B -LB	715-2528	MICHAUX	1220
733-5605	DAUGHTRY	2207	733-5741	MILLS	2221
715-3021	DIXON	1002	733-5780	MOBLEY	501-LB
715-2526	DOCKHAM	2204	715-3012	MOFFITT	1025
715-0795	DOLLAR	307B1 -LB	733-5606	MOORE, R.	1211
715-2530	EARLE	610-LB	733-4838	MOORE, T.	1326
733-5877	FAIRCLOTH	306A3 -LB	733-5602	MURRY	2121
715-3019	FAISON	405-LB	733-0010	OWENS	611-LB
733-5898	FARMER-BUTTERFIELD	631D -LB	733-9892	PARFITT	1017
715-2013	FISHER	504-LB	733-5829	PARMON	509-LB
733-5959	FLOYD	1311	733-5803	PIERCE	1204
733-5787	FOLWELL	301F -LB	733-5821	PRIDGEN	2223
733-5661	FRYE	639-LB	733-5935	RANDLEMAN	531-LB
733-5880	GILL	1305	733-5732	RAPP	1013
733-5862	GILLESPIE	307B2 -LB	733-5782	RHYNE	2208
733-5601	GLAZIER	1021	733-5773	ROSS	1023
733-5823	GOODMAN	1111	733-5755	SAGER	416B -LB
715-0875	GRAHAM	1315	715-3009	SAMUELSON	419B -LB
715-4466	GUICE	528-LB	733-5853	SANDERSON	306A2 -LB
733-0057	HACKNEY	612-LB	733-4948	SETZER	1206
733-5749	HAGER	306C -LB	715-9644	SHEPARD	301N -LB
715-3005	HAIRE	609-LB	715-3029	SPEAR	402-LB
733-5872	HALL	1015	733-2962	STAM	2301
733-5754	HAMILTON	1319	733-5931	STARNES	419A -LB
733-5771	HARRISON	1218	733-5881	STEEN	305-LB
715-2002	HASTINGS	2123	715-1883	STEVENS	416A -LB
733-5830	HILL	1309	715-3026	STONE	1008
733-5988	HILTON	1227	733-3451	TILLIS	2304
301-1306	HOLLO	633-LB	715-3024	TOLSON	608-LB
733-5609	HOLLOWAY	529-LB	733-5868	TORBETT	537-LB
733-2406	HORN	1010	733-5995	WAINWRIGHT	613-LB
733-5904	HOWARD	1106	715-3023	WARREN, E.	1323

<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Office</u>
733-5784	WARREN, H.	533-LB
715-3010	WEISS	1109
733-5859	WEST	1004
715-0850	WILKINS	1301
733-5777	WOMBLE	510-LB
733-5662	WRAY	502-LB

Check the N.C. General Assembly website for more information: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/>

N.C. Senators

<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Office</u>
733-5876	ALLRAN	625	733-5651	WALTERS	1118-LB
733-5745	APODACA	2010-LB	733-5190	Lt. Gov. DALTON	2104-LB
715-3036	ATWATER	519	733-2599	FAX	1430-LB
715-8363	BERGER, D.	516	733-3113	FAX	109
733-5708	BERGER, P.	2008-LB	Office Legend		
733-5665	BINGHAM	2117-LB	LB=Legislative Building (as opposed to Legislative <i>Office</i> Building)		
733-4809	BLAKE	408			
733-5752	BLUE	1117-LB			
715-0690	BROCK	623			
715-3034	BROWN	300D			
733-7850	BRUNSTETTER	2022-LB			
715-3038	CLARY	314			
715-8331	CLODFELTER	526			
715-7823	DANIEL	411			
733-5955	DANNELLY	1127-LB			
733-5875	DAVIS	2111-LB			
733-5743	EAST	522			
715-3050	FORRESTER	2108-LB			
733-5620	GARROU	620			
715-2525	GOOLSBY	2115-LB			
733-5650	GRAHAM	622			
301-1446	GUNN	312			
733-5734	HARRINGTON	2113-LB			
733-7223	HARTSELL	300B			
733-3460	HISE	1026-LB			
733-5850	HUNT	308			
733-5705	JACKSON	525			
715-3040	JENKINS	621			
715-3032	JONES	518			
733-5804	KINNAIRD	628			
733-9349	MANSFIELD	1119-LB			
733-4599	McKISSICK	520			
733-5776	MEREDITH	2106-LB			
715-3001	NESBITT	1129-LB			
715-3030	NEWTON	410			
733-5621	PATE	406			
733-5706	PRESTON	629			
733-5953	PURCELL	517			
733-5963	RABON	1028-LB			
715-3042	ROBINSON	1120-LB			
733-5748	ROUZER	523			
733-5655	RUCHO	300A			
733-5742	SOUCEK	310			
715-6400	STEIN	1113-LB			
733-5653	STEVENS	309			
733-5870	TILLMAN	627			
733-7659	TUCKER	311			
733-5856	VAUGHAN	515			

Contacting the N.C. State AFL-CIO

By Phone:	919-833-6678 (Office)
	919-880-2265 (President Andrews)
	919-523-2835 (Secretary-Treasurer McMillan)
	919-815-6092 (General Counsel Okun)
	336-255-2711 (Comm. Director Sprinkle)
	815-546-0115 (Field Program Coord. Orlovich)
By Fax:	919-828-2102
By Email:	info@afcionc.org
Via the Web:	http://afcionc.org/
On Twitter:	@ncstateafclcio
On Facebook:	http://on.fb.me/ncstateafclcio
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