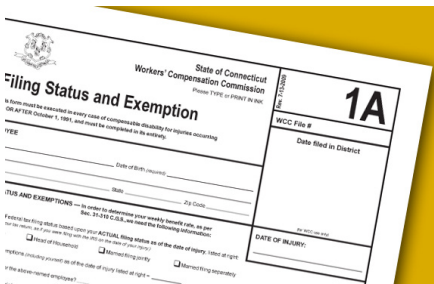


ISSUES & POLICIES

About Connecticut's Workers' Comp System



In 1993, the business community and Republicans and Democrats in the legislature, worked together to forge reforms to the state's workers' compensation system that controlled skyrocketing costs, curbed abuses, improved efficiency, and balanced the needs of employees and employers. The result? One of the fairest, most generous workers' compensation systems in the U.S. In fact, Connecticut's system has become a model for the rest of the country.

No Good Deed...

Despite that achievement, beginning in 1994 and continuing through the present, the legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee has approved bills that would undermine many of the reforms at huge cost to the people who are trying to retain and grow jobs in the state. Every year the legislature has rejected these proposals, but every year they keep coming.

In 2010, for example, the legislature considered a proposal that would have taken away employers' ability to pre-approve routine medical examinations and treatments in workers' compensation cases. Moreover, "routine" as defined in the bill was "anything recommended by a physician or surgeon"—an invitation to encourage all kinds of potential, costly treatments. Under the bill, employers would be powerless to make sure that injured employees receive only the necessary and appropriate medical care they need in workers' compensation cases.

Bills Don't Need to Pass to Do Damage

That proposal didn't succeed, but the fact that such measures are regularly considered by lawmakers weakens business confidence in Connecticut and is a disincentive for employers to invest in the state and create the jobs we need.

CBIA will continue to urge lawmakers to reject any proposals that would increase workers' compensation costs or add administrative burdens and to maintain the system's integrity so that it remains fair, efficient, and affordable for employers.