Stop the attacks on the NYS workers’ comp system

Workers need justice, not unfair workers comp rules!

Sick or hurt thanks to your job?
Were your arms or legs involved? Is the injury permanent?
Are you being sent to see another doctor?

If the state Workers’ Compensation Board’s proposed regulations and guidelines become official:
- you’ll get little, if any, compensation for permanent injuries to arms and legs (e.g., fractures, torn ligaments/tendons, dislocations);
- you could be sent to a “company doctor” about your claim, who can say you aren’t “co-operating” for all kinds of reasons;
- it will be easier for employers, insurers and “independent medical examiners” to intimidate and abuse workers making a claim; and
- average awards for permanent “schedule loss of use” will go from $18,873.63 to $3,023.29.

These four things take less than two minutes. Then ask others to do the same thing.

Start at the Workers Compensation Alliance page (#ProtectInjuredWorkers) to:
- send the Board a prepared message opposing the changes (and add your own experience or what’s happened to those you know or love);
- sign the petitions from the state AFL-CIO and the Worker Protection Coalition;
- e-mail your State Senator to protect injured workers; and
- show your support with messages on Facebook and Twitter.

You also can:
- spread the word with NYCOSH’s infographic, send their postcard to the Board; and
- share information about the proposals prepared for workers, union leaders, doctors, and legislators.

Check out what these folks told the Assembly Labor Committee hearing on September 26:
- Joe Canovas (State AFL-CIO);
- Robert Grey (Workers’ Compensation Alliance -- of lawyers);
- Dr. Winston Kwa (Mount Sinai-Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health);
- attorney Mark Somers; and
- Leah Lotto (National Center for Law and Economic Justice).

The proposals are a direct attack on workers. They destroy the “bargain” behind workers’ comp: workers give up the right to sue employers if they’re hurt or get sick because of a job; in return, they get compensation.

The Workers’ Compensation Board snuck the proposals out after 11 PM on the Friday before Labor Day weekend. (See the proposals here and a detailed criticism here.)

Since then, unions, lawyers, doctors, workers’ health and safety advocates, and the public have fought back.

Join them to support injured workers.