

Wisconsin Coalition on Worker's Compensation

To: Members, Wisconsin Legislature

From:

Patrick Osborne
Aggregate Producers of Wisconsin

John Mielke
Associated Builders & Contractors

Matthew Banaszynski
Independent Insurance Agents of Wisconsin

Nickolas George
Midwest Food Processors Association

Bill G. Smith
National Federation of Independent Business

Chet Gerlach
Skiing Wisconsin

Brad Boycks
Wisconsin Builders Association

Mark O'Connell
Wisconsin Counties Association

Brian Dake
Wisconsin Independent Businesses, Inc

Andy Franken
Wisconsin Insurance Alliance

Scott Suder
Wisconsin Paper Council

Edward Lump
Wisconsin Restaurant Association

Scott Manley
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Patrick Goss
Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association

James Buchen, WMC/Employer Member
Wis. Worker's Compensation Advisory Council

William Skewes
Wisconsin Utilities Association

Subject: Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council Bill

Date: January 30, 2014

We are members of a new coalition, the Wisconsin Coalition on Worker's Compensation, formed to advance the interests of Wisconsin employers on worker's compensation matters before the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council, the Legislature, the Administration, and state agencies.

We support the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council consensus process and support the "agreed bill" developed by the Council and endorsed at their January 23, 2014, meeting.

As many of you know, employers typically pay more for health care services provided under the worker's compensation system than group health insurers pay for comparable injuries and illnesses, with the greatest differences found in specialty areas such as surgery and radiology. The Council bill will lead to a medical fee schedule by June 30, 2015, putting us in line with the vast majority of states that have worker's compensation cost controls.

Consistent with past Council bills, this proposal represents a package of negotiated provisions mutually agreed to by labor and management. We recognize there are some tradeoffs in the form of benefit enhancements, but overall this bill is a net cost savings for employers.

We request your support for the consensus worker's compensation legislation and we look forward to meeting with members of the Legislature and others on this vitally important issue.

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