



The Office of Governor Mary Fallin
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

4/25/13

Dear Governor Fallin,

UFCW Local 1000 represents thousands of grocery and food production workers in Oklahoma and we write to you urgently to veto and reject the worker's compensation bill passed by the Legislature.

This reform is bad for workers and bad for our state. We strongly believe that cutting benefits for injured workers and their spouses is the wrong choice. The worker's compensation system in Oklahoma is flawed, but this reform does nothing to address the fundamental reason worker's compensation exists - to protect injured workers and their families. Cutting business costs on the backs of middle class Oklahomans is wrong.

This reform is heavily weighted to suit the interests of industry and insurance companies. The "opt-out" provision will fundamentally alter the protections for injured Oklahomans by giving employers the choice of whether and how to offer coverage. Too much power over an individual's life and limbs at work is being handed to the employer. This reform eliminates cumulative trauma injuries and mental health injuries as legitimate worker's compensation cases, which will strain the already overburdened employer-based and public health insurance systems.

Lastly, we believe that too much power over worker's compensation cases is being centralized with political appointees, especially the new commission that will govern the system. Big business will be incentivized to contribute political donations to whatever party is in the Governor's mansion in order to influence the selection of these commissioners and their decisions. This reform politicizes worker's compensation to the detriment of Oklahoma's workers.

We ask you to reject this reform and look for balanced, fair ways to fix worker's compensation. Middle class Oklahomans need your help and need someone to stand up for them. We can't always hope employers will do the right thing, but a fair, just, and impartial worker's compensation system guarantees that they will.

Sincerely,

Ricky Burris

President
UFCW Local 1000

Visit us on the web at www.ufcw1000.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Local1000

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