



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
130 STATE CAPITOL  
SAINT PAUL 55155

ARNE H. CARLSON  
GOVERNOR

28 May 1991

The Honorable Robert Vanasek  
Speaker of the House  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
463 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed Chapter 247, House File 1422/Senate File 1248, a bill relating to Workers' Compensation.

Early in our deliberations I established a set of principles by which I would measure any reform proposal presented to me for signature.

The legislation you passed fails to meet seven of those standards. For the record, let me reiterate the areas where the bill is deficient.

1. The legislation fails to provide for substantial judicial reform.
2. The legislation does not eliminate circumstances where claimants can receive even more in benefits than they earned while working.
3. The legislation leaves intact a system which grants total disability benefits to claimants who are not seriously disabled.
4. Far from controlling costly and pointless litigation, the legislation would substantially increase lawsuits.
5. The legislation purports to reduce premiums but in fact only artificially compresses rates via a mandate that almost certainly will not withstand judicial scrutiny.
6. The legislation addresses rising health care costs by rolling back some fees but fails to manage and coordinate health care options in a cost efficient manner.
7. The legislation was passed by both the House and Senate on almost purely partisan lines.

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Clearly, this bill falls way short of the long-term structural reform required and is therefore not acceptable. Basically, by passing this bill the Legislature abdicated its responsibility for guaranteeing that Minnesota have a fair and equitable Workers' Compensation system.

Instead, the Legislature authorized another commission to study the Workers' Compensation system. There have been at least three studies of the system in recent years.

I believe Minnesota workers and employers deserve more than another study commission. Regrettably, the Legislative Leadership refused to acknowledge the urgency of this need.

Sincerely,



ARNE H. CARLSON  
Governor

Attachment: Workers' Compensation Reform Principles

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader  
Senator Jerome Hughes, President of the Senate  
Senator Duane Benson, Minority Leader  
Senator Florian Chmielewski, Senate Chief Author  
Representative Terry Dempsey, Minority Leader  
Representative Tom Rukavina, House Chief Author  
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House  
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate  
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State