



Florida AFL-CIO • United Labor Lobby Legislative Alert!

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Florida's Workers Are Under Attack!

Contact Governor Crist **NOW** and tell him to VETO HB 903
Workers' Compensation!

During the final hours of the Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed legislation that will deny Florida's injured workers their day in court. HB 903 was rammed through the process by the most extreme, anti-worker leaders in the Florida House who refused a Senate compromise. It attempts to undercut a Supreme Court ruling that found that attorneys representing injured workers against big insurance firms looking to deny claims need "reasonable" fees for the workers' compensation process to work and for workers' rights to be protected.

- HB 903 blocks injured workers from being able to hire competent counsel to represent them in workers' compensation cases by imposing strict and unreasonable caps on attorney fees. The big insurance companies have no such cap and can continue spending as much as they want on their own attorneys.
- HB 903 gives big insurance a huge incentive to deny all valid claims because no worker will be able to fight them in court.
- HB 903 removes all penalties for the big insurance companies who routinely deny valid claims, thus keeping injured workers and their families from the benefits they deserve. They will be unable to pay medical costs and get back to work or provide for their families if they are unable to return to work.

Workers deserve legal counsel when taking on Big Insurance.
Employers Deserve a Workers' Compensation System that Works.
Big Insurance Does not Deserve a Free Payday at the Expense of Injured Workers!

**Contact Governor Crist and Now - Urge Him to Show Real Leadership
and Veto this Bad Legislation!**

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See what the press is saying:

“A bill approved by the Legislature would make it easier for insurance companies to deny and delay claims by workers injured on the job -- by capping attorneys' fees so low that few workers would be able to hire representation...Gov. Charlie Crist should veto this anti-business, anti-worker legislation.”
– **Daytona Beach News Journal**

“If Gov. Charlie Crist wants to look out for Florida workers, he should veto a bill that would make it harder for them to hire a lawyer if they are denied compensation for a workplace injury...Last year, in a 5-0 ruling, the Florida Supreme Court found that this kind of inequity violated the law's promise of awarding successful claimants 'reasonable' fees...The Florida Supreme Court returned a measure of fairness to the workers' compensation system. Crist should let the ruling stand and veto HB 903.”–
St. Pete Times