



# Connecticut AFL-CIO

## FACT SHEET #10

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### S.B. 217 AAC Discretionary Benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act

In 1993, the General assembly enacted a series of so-called reforms to the Worker Compensation laws. After 12 years of experience with the changes, we now know that the 1993 legislation needs to be corrected.

The net affect of the changes **arbitrarily reduced benefits to injured workers by a third (1/3).**

The 1993 "reforms" eliminated "discretionary benefits." This allowed the Worker Compensation Commissioner the discretion to award additional benefits to those workers who had **exhausted their benefits but had not fully recovered from their injuries.**

This is an important benefit because many times an injured worker is not physically ready to return to work by the time his/her benefits have run out. **A worker**

**returning to work prematurely risks further injury or prolonging his/her total recovery.**

This bill makes good sense for the employer by allowing an injured worker the time to fully recover and return to work **ready to perform at full capacity.** In addition, it protects the employer from further liability and **lost time due to re-injury.**

This legislation would correct the errors of the 1993 "reforms" and give ONLY the Chairman of the Worker Compensation Commission, not the full Commission, the discretion to award additional benefits.

#### Special points of interest:

- The 1993 "reforms" to the Worker Compensation laws arbitrarily reduced benefits to injured workers by a third (1/3).
- This bill protects the employer from further liability and lost time due to re-injury.
- A worker returning to work prematurely risks further injury or prolonging his/her total recovery.