

April 26, 2023

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Minnesota Senate
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: 2023 Workers' Compensation Advisory Council recommendations
HF 2988 (Wolgamott)/SF 3193 (McEwen)**

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) is a statutory council comprised of representatives from business and organized labor charged with recommending to the legislature amendments to Minnesota Chapter 176, the chapter governing workers' compensation in Minnesota. See Minn. Stat. § 175.007.

In a series of meetings, the WCAC unanimously approved amendments that will introduce efficiencies to the system, increase benefits for injured workers, control costs in the system, and establish groundwork to improve outcomes for injured workers with work-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The agreement builds on many months of work by the WCAC and stakeholders. It includes: criteria for certifying disputes at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry; a charge structure for copies of electronic medical records; a weighted increase to the permanent partial disability schedule payable to injured workers; reduction of medical costs under the hospital outpatient fee schedule over a three-year period; and a study of work-related PTSD.

The agreement is broadly supported by the WCAC members, stakeholders and legislative liaisons to the WCAC. We respectfully request the House and Senate to support the crucial work of the WCAC and vote in support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Nicole Blissenbach
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
WCAC Chair



Doug Loon
President
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
WCAC Member



Bernie Burnham
President
Minnesota AFL-CIO
WCAC Member

CC: Members of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council