



2009 GUIDELINES ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Background

1. Workers' Compensation Insurance is a major expense for the Chamber's business members.
2. Mesa County businesses continue to express grave concern with the local administrative law judge and the decision making process.

The Chamber Supports:

1. The major provisions of SB91-218, including maintenance of a specific benefits schedule and the use of impairment ratings that are based upon medical standards. SB91-218 has been shown to be fair to injured workers as well as effective in reducing costs.
2. Efforts to limit fraudulent utilization of the system by employers and/or employees.
3. Legislative efforts to bring about reform and changes to the current system of administrative law judges (ALJs). Study of the current system of administrative law judges is necessary in order to determine whether some oversight of their decisions is necessary in order to increase their effectiveness. Their responsibilities must be more clearly defined and a system should be implemented that ensures accountability for their decisions.

The Chamber Opposes:

1. Efforts to increase the flexibility of awards through enhanced opportunities for litigation or medical interpretation.