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GOP Continues Cruel Calculated Assault on Missouri's Working Families

Governor Blunt and Republican members in the House and Senate continue the assault on working families with the denial of vital medical care and lost time from work-related injuries and illnesses. Since 1926, the workers' compensation laws were intended to promote workplace safety and provide medical and wage replacement coverage by employers not by the general public.

The Republican workers' compensation language changes the definitions in current law that favors workers' rights and moves to restrict workers' ability to receive workers' compensation when injured. Only injuries that show up on an X-ray or MRI would be allowed under the new law. Further, statistics show that businesses are the leading source of workers' compensation fraud—not employees. This language weakens the fraud provision in favor of corporations.

Injured workers are waiting too long for their settlements under current law. They are forced to go on unemployment to pay the bills, which jeopardizes their settlement. The injured worker wants to go back to work and they are being neglected. In addition, this law promotes the use of attorneys because it creates a very complex process that laypeople cannot hope to understand and navigate with any success.

Most inappropriately during the open conference meeting, Governor Blunt's staff, his appointees, and his supporters from the state Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Missouri and other business lobbyists were openly signaling voting cues to Republican Conferees on amendments offered by Democrat Conferees. This was improper conduct by the Governor's staff and supporters.

Governor Blunt's influence upon the ultimate conference report is one more illustration of his administration's calculated cruel assault on the poor, the elderly, and the disabled. Add injured workers and their survivors to that growing list of those hurt by Governor Blunt. This is yet another example of how the Governor has completely lost his moral compass when he championed these attacks on basic needs of all Missourians.
