



Letter to the Editor – September 14, 2005

By Missouri Senator Tim Green

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In response to recent concerns that Missouri's Workers' Compensation system is about to deconstruct before our eyes – I agree. It is not, however, because my colleagues and I voted against enacting an emergency clause on a horrendous new law during the recent Extraordinary Session.

One of my greatest responsibilities is to protect the working men and women of this state. My job *requires* that I fight harmful legislation such as the recent Workers' Compensation bill, which so distorts the system's original intent, everyone – workers and employers alike – will be hurt in the end.

Workers' Compensation was designed to help both employers and employees. Employers protect their workers from on-the-job injuries and in exchange, workers won't take their employers to court. It is a simple and fair system that has benefited businesses and workers for decades.

The recent new law, supported by Gov. Matt Blunt, dissolves some of the most important protections of the system and now leaves employers and employees to fight it out on their own. This is not something the creators of Workers' Compensation envisioned, and it is not something my colleagues and I can support. This new law was written by the insurance carriers—the same insurance companies that increase rates on employers and add further injury to hurt workers who deserve better.

During the Extraordinary Session, technical changes were made to the new law. The Republican leadership then asked us to approve an emergency clause, which would set the new law into motion immediately. Asking me to approve the emergency clause was asking me to support the immediate enactment of something that will hurt my constituents for the rest of their lives.

Fortunately, my responsibilities as a Democratic state senator won't allow that.

Sincerely,

/s/

Timothy P. Green  
Missouri Senator, 13<sup>th</sup> District