

Written testimony submitted by Peter Thompson, DC Grandview Health Partners, Ltd.

To Whom It May Concern:

For the past 11 years I have been involved in the worker's compensation system providing treatment to injured workers. After reviewing the 11/29/10 hearing testimony from the human resource and employer representatives, I wanted to offer a medical provider's testimony on behalf of the injured worker. More specifically the disastrous effects that employer controlled medical care, and allowing employer paid doctors to determine what constitutes an injury would have on workers hurt on the job.

As the law currently allows, the employer has the right to send their injured employees to the company physician to evaluate and provide care. Many employees receive perfectly reasonable and necessary care. I have seen countless instances however whereby some of these company physicians give the injured party minimal attention, or they are sent back to full work duties when they should have been sent for a surgical consult. The same applies for the IME and Utilization Review physicians who garner more carrier referrals by recommending less or minimal treatment. This in my opinion is already a conflict of interest, which could be ruinous for anyone significantly injured on the job should the employer control medical treatment.

As it stands, many people injured on the job are fired simply because they reported their injuries. Treatment is delayed by employers who do not timely report injuries to their insurance, or denied by insurance adjusters who are not medical providers. Nurse case managers often intimidate employees in stages of recovery to go back to the company doctor by threatening to stop their benefits. They are then immediately released from care without completing treatment and commonly are released from their jobs.

These examples are all true, and happen more often than I can believe. As an employer and a business owner I understand the need and desire to keep a lid on expenses. But not at the expense of a person legitimately injured while doing their job. If the panel recommends any measures for worker's compensation reform, I hope that employer controlled medical care is not among them. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Peter Thompson, DC
Grandview Health Partners, Ltd.