

August 25, 2017

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois House of Representatives,
100th General Assembly:

Today, I veto House Bill 2525, which addresses Illinois' Workers' Compensation System.

Illinois remains in a fiscal and economic crisis that taxes and regulations cannot solve. The only way to truly improve our state's financial status is to grow our economy through the creation of jobs and opportunity. Our workers' compensation insurance is one of the most expensive in the nation, and the statutory scheme underlying these costs is riddled with problems and stakeholders that stand in the way of getting injured employees back to health and encouraging employers to invest in Illinois again. We need thoughtful reform of this system, and we must focus our efforts on solutions that encourage economic growth while also making sure we are providing efficient and effective care to injured workers.

Unfortunately, this bill does not make the changes necessary to achieve those goals. It fails to acknowledge the cost-drivers that are putting our state at a competitive disadvantage for jobs and growth. Instead, it imposes additional regulatory structures where they are not needed.

This legislation does not represent real reform. It does not address the competitive disadvantages that are resulting in the disappearance of jobs in our manufacturing sector, where middle-class workers once could find opportunities for growth and advancement. It will not stop the flood of hardworking individuals who are leaving our state when these opportunities are lacking.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 9(b) of Article IV of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return House Bill 2525, entitled "AN ACT concerning employment," with the foregoing objections, vetoed in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR