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Protecting injured workers' rights

August 7, 2017

Hand Delivered and Emailed: dale.schultz@azica.gov

Chairman Dale Schultz
Industrial Commission of Arizona
P.O. Box 19070
Phoenix, AZ 85005-9070

Re: Streamlining the process for authorizing medical treatment

Dear Chairman Schultz:

As you are aware, in its recently concluded session the Arizona Legislature enacted as part of SB 1332 a provision in section 5 which says in part, “. . . the industrial commission of Arizona shall review and determine a process for streamlining the authorization process for treatment that is within the evidence-based medical treatment guidelines.”

In order to conclude the most collaborative result for this, and as the President of the Arizona Association of Lawyers for Injured Workers (AALIW), I am writing to ask that the Industrial Commission convene a meeting of workers' compensation stakeholders to address the issue of streamlining the process for authorizing medical treatment in workers' compensation cases. The purpose of the meeting would be to work towards reaching an acceptable agreement among the stakeholders on expediting the authorization of medical treatment that is allowed under the Occupational Disability Guidelines.

The legislation was crafted and enacted using this stakeholder approach, and we think that using this same approach in its implementation would be most effective to all concerned.

We realize that the Commission has scheduled a public hearing on August 17th to consider this issue. While we intend to participate in that process, AALIW believes that additional time and input will be required to come to a satisfactory resolution of this issue. We believe that the stakeholders, working together, can offer a solution that will work to benefit our entire workers' compensation system and the people who are affected by it.

To assist us in that regard, we would request that the ICA share with us and the stakeholders listed below any recommendations the ICA has received regarding proposals to improve the approval process.

Sincerely,



Briana Chua
President, AALIW

cc: James Ashley
Susie Cannata
Mike Colletto
Mark Kendall
Jim Mann
Marcus B. Osborn
Stephanie Parra
Sara Sparman
The Honorable J. D. Mesnard, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Steve Yarbrough, President of the Senate
The Honorable Karen Fann, Arizona State Senate
The Honorable Steve Smith, Chairman Senate Commerce Committee
The Honorable David Livingston, Chairman House Banking and Insurance Committee