



citycounty insurance services
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Wednesday, April 8, 2015

**Written Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Workforce
Regarding Senate Bill 701**

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

CityCounty Insurance Services (CIS) has a number of significant concerns with Senate Bill 701. Here is a short list of some of our most serious concerns.

- SB 701 is unnecessary. The Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) already has administrative rules in place to protect the rights of workers in the independent medical examination (IME) process. This includes certification and training requirements for IME physicians, opportunity for workers to comment about their IME experience, and potential sanctions against IME providers.
- Involving WCD in a random physician selection process would create delay burdening both insurers/self-insured employers and workers. This would make it more difficult for insurers/self-insured employers to meet required claim processing deadlines. It would harm workers by delaying the provision of necessary medical benefits which often depends on the results of an IME.
- The random selection process would result in overall reduced quality IME reports. The current IME process allows insurers/self-insured employers to select the appropriate specialist or panel of specialists depending on the exact nature of the workers' condition. SB 701 would remove this safeguard.

If we understood what problem SB 701 is intended to resolve, we might be able to propose some reasonable alternatives. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 701.

Very truly yours,

Richard J. Cantwell
Workers' Compensation Attorney