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Paloma Sparks

Testimony to Senate Judiciary Committee

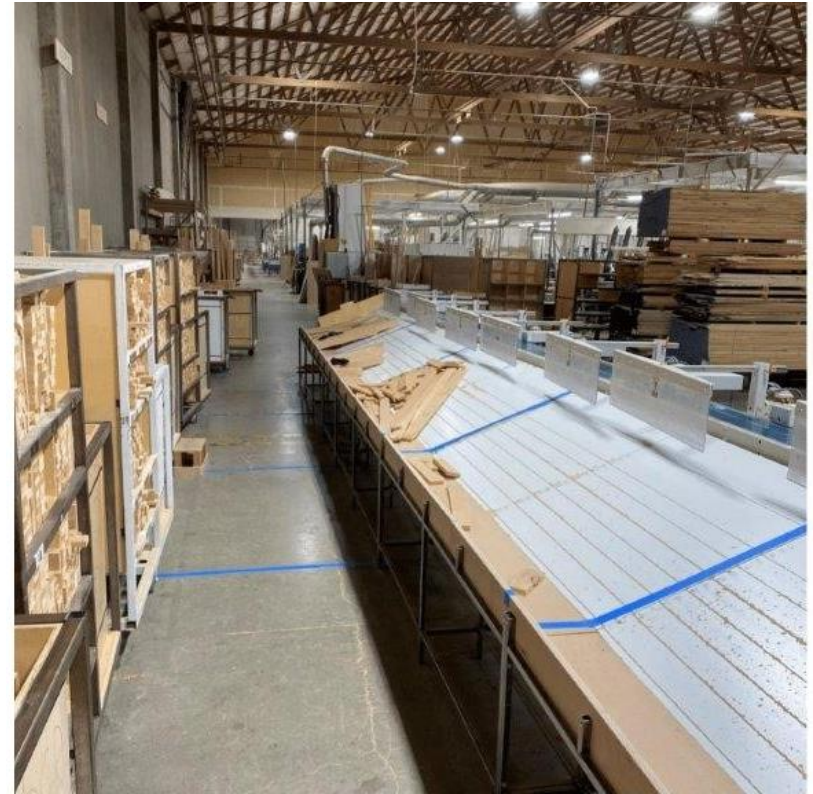
Workplace Safety and Workers' Compensation

June 3, 2020

Safety Precautions

- Modifications to work areas
- Focus on physical barriers and space
- Changing work schedules
- Staggering meal and rest breaks

Social Distancing in the Workplace



Social Distancing in the Workplace



Challenges

- Guidance communication issues
- Employee resistance to some changes
- Availability of PPE
- Public perception vs. reality
- EO 20-12 vs. other states
- Common areas

Workers' Compensation

- Purpose of Workers' Comp is to help employees recover from *on the job* acquired injuries or illnesses
- It is intended to help workers with lost wages and medical treatment due to work-related injuries or illnesses
- The goal is to help employees recover and return to work

Workers' Comp and COVID-19

- Workers can file claims now
- May be compensable – must be work related
- SAIF has shown they are processing claims
- Employees file, time loss, investigation, claim determination

Concerns with Guarantee Proposal

- This is functionally a guarantee of workers' comp coverage
- Governor Brown did not define “essential” industries or employees
- What is the problem?
- The system is working right now as intended
- This is a national health crisis – this proposal seems to require employers to shoulder the bulk of the burden

Questions?

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