

April 2, 2021

As an injured worker, the preferred worker program has been invaluable to my success in providing for my family. At a previous job, I sustained a life-threatening permanent lung injury from a forest fire, that made it very difficult to find employment. I also have some other physical challenges that are difficult, when I do certain activities. The challenges I now face, have to be handled with extreme care. This program has made it possible for me to work and thrive at a job that I absolutely love.

Living in an area that gets a lot of smoke from forest fires in the summer and fall months, making it nearly impossible for me to leave my home at times. This is one of the life-threatening challenges I face every year. Thanks to your program, I am able to come to work and breathe air that has been purified and is safer for me. This also helps me to be able to breathe and also not lose my voice completely. It also enables me to answer calls that come in. I am also able to see my computer screen, now that I was able to get quality reading glasses, as my eyesight has gotten really bad since the fire. The intense smoke affected my eyesight also, immediately. The file cabinets that were purchased, have also been invaluable, as I had to go through and scan thousands of files, during the first year of my employment. They are being used every day, and are so important to my position. Especially now that I have taken over HR position for our company. These are just a few of the items this program has provided me with, that have made it possible for me to support my family, and stay healthy at the same time. It was really hard for me in the past to have to make the choice of risking my life to go to work or stay home. This amazing outcome would not have been possible, without the Preferred Worker Program. I hope you will support their budget in SB 5510. Thank you so very much!

Kim Essex