



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

PA SENATE BILL 936 WORKERS' COMPENSATION "REFORM MEASURE" DEAD BY TIE VOTE 98-98



(PA AFL-CIO) Our state's workers' compensation system is a bargain between working people, their employers and the Commonwealth. Working people have relinquished their ability to sue employers if they are injured on the job, while employers and the state ensure that injured workers are fairly compensated and receive proper medical treatment. This agreement is one that has an extraordinary impact on those who have the misfortune and of being injured or becoming ill on the job. While many working people were not looking, our workers' compensation system has come under attack by those who seek to reduce treatment options, enforce unattainable and unfair standards for so-called impairment and disability, etc. "Senate Bill 936 is a shameful attempt to make it easier for insurance companies to profit off of the

opioid epidemic by providing inadequate treatment or denying coverage to injured workers. Opioids are not a priority in this bill. Drug formularies prioritize cheaper medications and forms of treatment, and might even increase the use of opioid medications in pain management. To say that this legislation is part of the solution to the current opioid addiction crisis faced by so many Pennsylvanians and their families is a false claim made without evidence with the purpose of playing off of people's pain to negotiate higher profits for corporations. This is a disgraceful abuse of a system designed to help injured workers. It is reprehensible to capitalize on the plight of those affected by the opioid epidemic, and jeopardize legitimate treatment for those injured on the job, to pad an insurance company's bottom line."

The PA Conference working along with the Pennsylvania State Building and Construction Trades Council sent letters to all 203 PA House Representatives strongly opposing this bill which was nothing more than an abomination to working men and women in the Commonwealth. Thanks to efforts of the PA AFL-CIO, Pennsylvania State Building and Construction Trades Council, The PA Conference of Teamsters and all the other national unions in Pennsylvania, the bill died in a tie vote 98-98. The PA Conference wishes to thank all the Democrats for voting against this bill as-well-as the following Republicans: Barrar, Charlton, DiGirolamo, Ellis, Farry, Lewis, Metzgar, Miccarrelli, Murt, O'Neill, Rader, Santora, Stephens, Taylor, Toohill and White. THANK YOU!