



## **HB21-1207 Overpayment Of Workers' Compensation Benefits**

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Business Affairs & Labor

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Opposition testimony

- Chairman Roberts – Representative Daugherty - Members of the committee - thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on behalf of the Colorado Competitive Council and the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.
- Our organizations strive to make and keep Colorado's business climate competitive to encourage our continued social and economic success for all of Colorado.
- We respectfully ask the committee to oppose this proposal and work to maintain the integrity of the states worker's compensation system.
- As most of you know the worker's compensation system in Colorado is funded 100% through employer premiums.
- It is designed to provide for injured workers – medical expenses to aid their recovery and lost wage to keep them financially whole while they recover - or in the most extreme cases death benefits for workers killed on the job.
- Employers are protected from liability in exchange for providing coverage for injured worker at no cost to them.
- To keep the program financially and morally viable it is important to maintain robust benefits that help injured workers get healthy



and replace their lost wages as they recover – anything that goes beyond that works to unnecessarily increase premiums for employers at a time when they can least afford it.

- The legislature and Colorado’s business community have worked hard to develop and maintain our system of work comp and this proposal is a step in the wrong direction.
- If overpayments occur they need to be paid back. To do otherwise increases costs and only benefits the worker who has received the unearned benefit.
- It is our understanding that these types of cases don’t happen often and we ask the committee to support our employer community and oppose HB 21-1207.
- Thank you.