

Mr. Brad Harrell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Harrell:

Thank you for contacting Governor Tony Evers regarding periodic increases for supplemental benefits payable to injured employees who are permanently and totally disabled as a result of work-related injuries and including additional injured employees in this program. Governor Evers' office shared your letter to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to provide a response to the inquiry as DWD administers Worker's Compensation.

As you may know, Wisconsin's Worker's Compensation system is over 110 years old and was the first Worker's Compensation system in the nation to withstand constitutional challenges, enshrining the grand bargain between management and labor that ensures support for workers injured on the job while protecting employers from further liability if they are insured.

Since 1968, the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) has advised state government on how to best support and strengthen the state's worker's compensation system, which has served as a national model for stability and effectiveness.

Your letter will be forwarded to the WCAC and will be included with the proposals to be considered for adoption in the Worker's Compensation Agreed Upon Bill in the next session of the legislature.

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) is responsible for approval of rates for worker's compensation insurance premiums. For the last nine years OCI has made estimates of the saving to employers on premiums for worker's compensation insurance. According to a press release dated July 31, 2024 worker's compensation insurance premium reductions effective October 1, 2024 will provide approximately \$206,000,000 in savings to employers in the coming year. DWD recommends that you contact OCI for the amount of estimated savings to employers due to decreased premiums.

Thank you very much for sharing your concerns about the need for regular periodic adjustments to increase the benefit rate for supplemental benefits for injured employees who are permanently and totally disabled and including additional employees in this program.

Sincerely,

The Department of Workforce Development

cc: Bob Hurley
John Eiden
Tim Moore