

From: Darin Saari <ososaari@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2019 8:00 PM
To: Peters, Steve M - DWD
Subject: Work comp claim

Hello Mr. Peters,

My name is Rebecca Saari, and I am an Advocate-Aurora employee. I was injured on the job on January 30, 2018, and am still on TTD. On the Governor's Share Your Ideas site, I expressed a few concerns regarding present work comp rights for employees. I was then contacted by Kelly McCormick, from that office, who referred me to you.

I was never counseled on what my rights were, how the work comp process worked, hours that are covered, or how it differs from FMLA. I have had my vacation time depleted, took unpaid hours, and was forced to return to work far too soon following surgery from my injury. Workman's compensation is a very complicated process, and I have had to navigate it on my own. Advocate-Aurora's Human Resources gave me, and my supervisor, information that directly contradicted state laws. I have had to fact check what my employer says with a State Workman's Compensation Specialist, and I should not be educating Aurora's human resource department about state laws. Advocate-Aurora does not have an onsite Human Resource Department, and employees handle much of their own payroll. Soon we will be responsible for submitting all of our payroll including FMLA, and work comp. Following my experiences with HR, and how misinformed they were, I truly believe many, many employees lost income, and earned vacation time as they too became lost in trying to figure it out, and trusting that HR was helping them, when in fact they were not. I credit the State Workman's Comp Specialist working with me for explaining to me all that my employer could not. It was startling, and very stressful to know how my employer clearly did not know work comp laws.

I read the upcoming proposals the Advisory Board is working on. I do hope that changes occur.

Thank-you for your time,
Rebecca Saari
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