
Policy Goal:

A Lean, Productive Workers' Compensation System

An efficient and effective workers' compensation system benefits workers, employers, and the economy of the state and is built on the following principles:

- Injured workers receive benefits that are prompt and adequate for getting back to work quickly and safely.
- Rates are established by sound actuarial principles, so that employers pay workers' compensation rates commensurate with the risk they bring to the system.
- The system is financed with well-functioning insurance mechanisms, including reserving and investment practices that assure fund solvency and stability.
- The benefit delivery system deploys best-in-class disability management practices that drive down costs for employers and improve service and outcomes for injured parties.
- The system consistently roots out fraud, whether by employers, workers or providers.

Fundamental priorities for future action are three:

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) should reform its medical management system to lower cost and improve medical quality through better coordination of care and development of a payment system that creates incentives for best clinical practices. In doing this, the BWC should build on emerging best practices in the private sector health care system, such as patient-centered medical homes.

The Ohio General Assembly should seek statutory reforms of benefit definitions, so that the claims adjudication process is more predictable, less susceptible to fraud and manipulation, and less costly, both for workers and employers.

The Industrial Commission should record hearings, so that the hearing process is more transparent and any appeals have a record on which to build.

