



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE**

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Marvin Deon II

April 15, 2024

**SENATE**

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
California State Senate, District 26  
1021 O Street, Room 7530  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1346 (Durazo), as introduced, February 16, 2024 – OPPOSE  
Workers' Compensation: Aggregate Disability Payments  
Hearing Set on April 22, 2024, in the Senate Appropriations  
Committee**

Dear Senator Durazo:

The County of Los Angeles must respectfully oppose SB 1346. This bill would result in an unfortunate impact on an existing framework of legislation that has built up over time and benefited thousands of workers statewide.

More specifically, SB 1346 would weaken the workers' compensation reforms enacted in 2003 (AB 227 and SB 228) related to the adoption of evidence-based medicine guidelines and the application of those guidelines through a mandatory utilization review process. This bill would also weaken reforms enacted in 2012 (SB 863) related to the independent medical review process and temporary disability benefits.

As presented, this legislation would require significant system modifications and interfaces to monitor treatment requests, utilization review denials, independent medical review overturn decisions, and temporary disability payments, with projected costs of nearly \$1 million, annually.

Last year, in response to AB 1213, (which was very similar to this bill) the California Workers' Compensation Institute's June 2023 report included an

estimate indicating that 31.7 percent of California workers' compensation claims had temporary disability payments, 11.7 percent of workers' compensation claims with temporary disability payments had at least one independent medical review decision, and 3.2 percent of workers' compensation claims with a utilization review denial of treatment were overturned. This is a clear indication that the current system works well and protects the health and well-being of California's workers. Furthermore, according to the analysis, only 0.9 percent of temporary disability claims, or under 0.3 percent of all workers' compensation claims, would have been impacted.

For additional information or clarification, please contact Andi Liebenbaum on my team at (916) 441-7888 or [ALiebenbaum@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:ALiebenbaum@ceo.lacounty.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. J. Deon II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M. J." and the last name "Deon" followed by the Roman numeral "II".

Marvin Deon  
Chief Legislative Representative

C: Each Member and Consultant,  
Senate Appropriations Committee