

Vote No on HB1586

Talking points for SSMRC members when contacting their representative

- House Bill 1586 will remove lifetime compensation for an employee's permanent disability or death – including his/her dependents - and instead caps payments at 450 months (less than 9 years).
- The amount of much-needed compensation that a worker gets for a traumatic injury should not be determined from a cookie-cutter formula. Each accident is as different as every injured Arkansan.
- Assigning an arbitrary deadline affects the recovery of the worker, who may sacrifice the correct care and rehab in order to meet the deadline of 450 weeks.
- By supporting HB1586, you are agreeing that permanent injuries which will affect one's ability to work for their rest of their life is now only worth 8 or so years to someone who doesn't even know the extent of the injured worker's disability.
- The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research found that 10 years after their injuries, workers awarded permanent partial benefits had lost about 55 percent to 70 percent of their earnings.
- Lifetime benefits remain the norm in the vast majority of the country, but several states have passed laws in recent years cutting off workers' comp benefits at or near retirement age. Automatically capping coverage at under 9 years will place disabled workers who are nowhere near retirement into a life-or-death survival challenge.
- The bottom line is, capping payments to our most needy citizens is a serious mistake. It will cause a loss in our economy, another burden to the Arkansas taxpayers, and the cruel abandonment of the men and women who need their government the most to protect them.