

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION REFORM: A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND GREATER WESLEY CHAPEL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN SUPPORT OF MAKING WORKERS' COMP RATES AFFORDABLE
FOR JOB CREATORS AND SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA CHAMBER'S WORKERS'
COMP TASK FORCE,**

WHEREAS, IN 2003 FLORIDA'S WORKERS' COMP RATES WERE THE SECOND HIGHEST IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, ON BEHALF OF FLORIDA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE FLORIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LED EFFORTS TO HELP LOWER WORKERS' COMP RATES BY OVER 60 PERCENT BETWEEN 2003-2016.

WHEREAS, ON APRIL 28, 2016, IN THE CASE OF *CASTELLANOS V. NEXT DOOR COMPANY* THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT THREW OUT THE CURRENT ATTORNEY FEE STRUCTURE THAT HAD LED TO LOWER RATES.

WHEREAS, ON JUNE 9, 2016, IN THE CASE OF *WESTPHAL V. CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG* THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT THREW OUT THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD FOR TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABILITY BENEFITS.

WHEREAS, AS A RESULT OF THESE ANTI-BUSINESS, OVER-REACHING FLORIDA SUPREME COURT DECISIONS, THE OFFICE OF INSURANCE REGULATION APPROVED A FIRST YEAR 14.5 PERCENT INCREASE, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2017 FOR NEW AND RENEWAL POLICIES.

WHEREAS, CAPS ON ATTORNEY FEES ARE ESSENTIAL IN KEEPING THE COST OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AFFORDABLE.

WHEREAS, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY BELIEVES THAT ATTORNEY FEES SHOULD BE TIED TO THE AMOUNT OF THE BENEFIT THE INJURED WORKER RECEIVES.

WHEREAS, THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM REQUIRES A BALANCE BETWEEN BENEFITS TO THE INJURED WORKER AND KEEPING THE COST OF WORKERS COMP AFFORDABLE FOR JOB CREATORS.

WHEREAS, THE WORKERS COMPENSATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE INJURED WORKER RECEIVING APPROPRIATE WAGE REPLACEMENT, HEALTH CARE, AND GETTING BACK TO WORK QUICKLY.

WHEREAS, THE SUPREME COURT DECISIONS HAVE RESULTED IN INCREASED CASES AND SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN ATTORNEYS FEES, NOT TO THE BENEFIT OF INJURED WORKERS.



NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT:

THE GREATER WESLEY CHAPEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ENCOURAGES THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS SUPPORTED BY THE FLORIDA CHAMBER TO ADDRESS ATTORNEY FEES IN ORDER TO KEEP WORKERS' COMP RATES IN FLORIDA AFFORDABLE FOR JOB CREATORS, HELP KEEP THE WORKERS' COMP SYSTEM WORKING, AND PROTECT EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES FROM ADDITIONAL, UNREASONABLE RATE INCREASES THAT DO NOT BENEFIT THE EMPLOYEE'S ABILITY TO QUICKLY RECEIVE APPROPRIATE CARE AND RETURN TO WORK.

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017.

SIGNATURE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____