



**KANSAS STATE COUNCIL
SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Testimony in Support of SB 73
Natalie Bright
March 13, 2013**



Chairman Kleeb and members of the House Commerce Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the members of the Kansas Society for Human Resource Management (KS SHRM) in support of SB 73. During the 2011 Legislative Session, KS SHRM and other business associations worked diligently to pass the largest workers compensation reform bill in the history of the state. This session the business community, along with KDOL, is supporting additional reforms set out in SB 73. They are as follows:

- Establish that in 2015 Kansas will adopt the Sixth Edition of the AMA Guides to be utilized by physicians. While the health and treatments have changed dramatically in the last 20 years the Kansas guidelines have not. Currently, the Fourth Edition of the AMA Guidelines is used, but is outdated. The AMA over the years has adopted a Fifth, and now the current Sixth Edition. Kansas will delay implementation of the Sixth edition to allow additional time for physicians to get acquainted with it and avoid overburdening them as they implement the ACA.
- Proposes to move the jurisdiction for appeals of recusal decisions to the Workers Compensation Appeals Board, in line with the 1993 reforms.
- Eliminates a remaining reference in the Kansas Workers Compensation Act to the requirement for the employee to file a written claim for compensation within 200 days of their injury. The requirement for a written claim to be presented within 200 days was taken out of the Act by the 2011 legislative reforms. This change eliminates the remaining reference to the no longer required 200 day written claim.
- Addresses a concern of the Division on Workers Compensation with regard to employers who self-insure their workers compensation liability. The Kansas Workers Compensation Act currently addresses the bonds posted as collateral to ensure the payment of workers compensation claims by self-insurers who in this difficult economy become insolvent. SB 73 adds a reference to letters of credit also posted by some self-insured.
- Reduces the number of days for notice from 20 to 10 calendar days that a former employee may file a workers' compensation after leaving the employment. This shorter notice period is aimed at preserving the integrity of the claim and assuring the injured worker seeks treatment upon injury.

The members of the Kansas Society for Human Resource Management ask you support the provisions outlines above and favorably approve SB 73.

House Commerce & Economic
Development Committee

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Attachment #: 2