

House of Representatives
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session 2009

Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME, LOCAL 646, AFL-CIO
ON SB 63, SD2, RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

SB 63, SD2 requires an employer to pay temporary total disability benefits to an injured worker regardless whether the employer controverts the right to benefits. Termination of such benefits can only be made by the DLIR Director, or if the treating physician determines the employee is able to resume work and the employer has made a bona fide offer of suitable work.

The United Public Workers, Local 646, supports this measure.

Too often, injuries are ignored by insurers and benefits to deserving claimants are denied or terminated without good cause. Weeks even months may go by without appropriate medical care and TTD benefits, which results in financial hardship on workers and their families. This disruption is counterproductive and is a serious impediment to the cost-effective treatment and recovery of injured workers.

This bill ensures that injured workers get the timely medical services that our workers' compensation system was created to provide. We urge the passage of SB 63, SD2.