

April 14, 2026

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives
State Office Building
100 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Minnesota Senate
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: 2026 Workers' Compensation Advisory Council recommendations
HF4598/SF3720**

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) is a statutory labor-employer council that negotiates reforms to the workers' compensation system before recommending a consensus bill to the Legislature. See Minn. Stat. § 175.007.

On April 13, 2026, the WCAC approved recommendations that include: updating the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association's (WCRA) process to distribute excess surplus or collect deficiency assessments; allowing the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA) to assign compensation judges from the Court of Administrative Hearings to claims when adequate numbers of appellate judges are unavailable; adding psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners to the list of providers that can diagnose work related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); technical adjustments to notice provisions regarding employee attorney retainer agreements; amending the permanent partial disability (PPD) schedule with dollar amount increases for injured workers; requiring that a witness to an employer examination be unpaid; updating the timing requirements for an employer or insurer to provide a notice of denial of liability upon notice to or knowledge that an injury is not work-related; and clarifying the authority to decide decisions based on stipulated facts.

The agreement builds on many months of work by the WCAC's Business and Labor caucuses and key workers' compensation stakeholders. The agreement is supported by Senator Utke, Senator McEwen, Representative Baker, and Representative Berg, legislative liaisons to the WCAC. It is important that the legislature support the work of the WCAC, and we respectfully request that the House and Senate vote in support of the bill.

Sincerely,



Nicole Blissenbach
Commissioner
MN Department of Labor and Industry
WCAC Chair



Doug Loon
President and CEO
MN Chamber of Commerce
WCAC Member



Bernie Burnham
President
MN AFL-CIO
WCAC Member

cc: Members of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council