

SCR109, Requesting The DLIR To Prepare and Submit a Proposal That Delineates How It Will Increase The Reimbursement Rate To Providers Of Service For Workers' Compensation Claimants.

Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate JDL Committee:

Thank you for introducing and hearing SCR 109.

It is encouraging to hear that DLIR favors an increase and is considering other alternatives to the current fee schedule. I have not supported what is in the law, Medicare plus 10% or authorizing the Director discretion to create or abolish the supplemental Exhibit A fee schedule.

First and foremost, this may be a substantial step toward increasing access to medical care for the injured worker and appropriate return to work. Many people on the Neighbor Islands find it almost impossible to find a physician willing to take on their WC claim because of decreased reimbursements and increased administrative requirements.

Delays in care often exacerbate the injury, demoralize the injured worker and may mean a disruption of income to maintain living expenses.

Hawaii ranks near the bottom (37 out of 43 states - the other 7 states do not use Medicare based fee schedules) for WC fees paid to providers, but yet we are one of the most expensive states for cost of living and practice expense. I especially appreciate that DLIR's proposal factor in geographic differences in insurance rates, federally accepted factors to estimate the cost of practice expenses and the average cost of the treatment to injured workers.

Secondly, SCR109 calls for transparency on the part of DLIR. Historically, providers must wait until the end of the year to see what the January 1 effective rate structure will be. This is no way to run a business. Many providers are small business owners and need advance notice of fee schedule changes for planning purposes, and for determination of needed cash reserves.

Thank you,


Lynne Estabilio, PT

LATE TESTIMONY

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Thank you,

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Mary Lau-Miki, PT DPT

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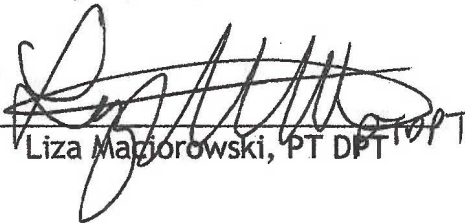
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Liza Magjorowski, PT DPT

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Jinky Nisperos, PT

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Mary Hughes, PT DPT OCS

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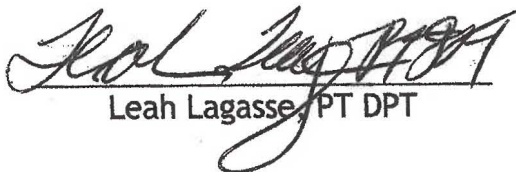
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Leah Lagasse, PT DPT

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Mark Miki, PT DPT CSCS

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Shawnte' Warfield, PT DPT

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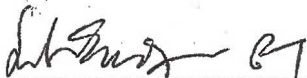
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