Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group®

Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group® is the national non-profit membership organization dedicated to representing the interests of millions of workers and their families who, each year, suffer the consequences of workplace injuries and illnesses. The group acts principally to assist attorneys and non-profit groups in advocating the rights of injured workers through education, communication, research, and information gathering. WILG® is a network of like-minded advocates for workers' rights, sharing information and knowledge, a sense of commitment and kinship, and networking to help each other and our clients.

June 11, 2026

The Honorable Ryan Mackenzie
Chairman
Subcommittee on Workforce Protections
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ilhan Omar
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Workforce Protections
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Mackenzie and Ranking Member Omar:

We write on behalf of the Workers' Injury Law and Advocacy Group ("WILG") regarding the Federal Workers' Compensation Integrity and Care Act. WILG is a national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to advancing the interests of the millions of workers and families who each year experience the consequences of workplace injuries and occupational illnesses.

WILG supports the H.R. 8822 the "Federal Workers' Compensation Integrity and Care Act". Requiring data sharing between the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs ("OWCP") and the Social Security Administration ("SSA") will help reduce overpayments and, in turn, prevent injured federal workers from receiving unexpected demands to repay benefits years after they have been issued. Injured federal workers only want the benefits to which they are legally entitled, delivered accurately and in a timely manner. When OWCP and SSA fail to coordinate benefit payments efficiently, the consequences extend beyond unnecessary costs to the government. Workers may unknowingly receive benefits later deemed improper and then face substantial repayment obligations for funds they reasonably believed they were entitled to receive. This legislation will improve the administration of benefits for both the government and workers while reducing the occurrence of overpayments.

Under current law, federal employees covered by the Federal Employees' Compensation Act ("FECA") must generally elect between Office of Personnel Management ("OPM") retirement benefits, including disability retirement, and FECA wage-loss compensation. However, injured federal workers who qualify for both FECA benefits and Social Security Disability Insurance (“SSDI”) may receive FECA wage-loss compensation and schedule awards while also being entitled to SSDI benefits. Furthermore, FECA wage-loss compensation and Federal Employees’ Retirement System (“FERS’) benefits cannot generally be received concurrently.

As a result, SSA and OWCP are required to reduce or offset payments to the injured workers to account for these rules. SSA is required to reduce SSDI payments when a beneficiary’s combined SSDI benefits and workers’ compensation or other public disability benefits exceed 80 percent of the worker’s average current earnings (“ACE”) prior to disability. When that threshold is exceeded, SSA offsets SSDI benefits by the excess amount. In many cases, these offsets substantially reduce, or even eliminate, the SSDI payment. Similarly, OWCP is also required to offset the portion of the Social Security benefits attributable to their federal service.

Unfortunately, SSA and OWCP often do not identify and apply these offsets for months or even years. During that period, injured workers, who are typically unfamiliar with the complex interaction between FECA, FERS and SSDI benefits, receive benefit payments and use them to pay for medical treatment and support themselves and their families. When SSA or OWCP later determines that an overpayment has occurred, the worker may be required to repay significant sums that have long since been spent. This often leads to lengthy and burdensome recovery proceedings, reductions in future benefits, or requests for waiver of repayment. In addition, if the injured employee dies before the overpayments are resolved their estates get tied up with repayment obligations, and the debt which was not their fault, impacts their survivors. Such outcomes serve neither the interests of injured workers nor those of the government.

Federal employees perform essential work on behalf of the American people, often in demanding and hazardous conditions. When they are injured in the course of their employment, they are entitled to receive the benefits provided for by law. Those benefits should be administered accurately, efficiently, and fairly. The Federal Workers’ Compensation Integrity and Care Act would advance those goals by improving coordination between OWCP and SSA and reducing avoidable overpayments before they occur.

For these reasons, WILG supports H.R. 8822, the Federal Workers’ Compensation Integrity and Care Act and urges the Committee to advance it.

Respectfully,

David P. Nomberg
President,
Workers Injury Law & Advocacy Group

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