



June 1, 2021

The Honorable Anastasia Williams  
Chair, House Labor Committee  
State of Rhode Island  
House of Representatives  
State House  
Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 6376

Dear Chairwoman Williams:

Please accept this letter in lieu of testimony of the Beacon Mutual Insurance Company in support of House Bill 6376, as amended.

As you know, this bill was recommended for consideration to your committee by the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council. Beacon is a member of, and actively participates in, the Advisory Council and agrees with this recommendation.

The changes proposed to RIGL §§ 28-33-17 and 28-33-18 were made at the suggestion of the Department of Labor and Training and simplify the formula for determining the weekly indemnity payment due an injured worker. The change to RIGL § 28-33-25.1 is an enforcement provision that penalizes non-compliance with a court order. Finally, the change to RIGL § 28-33-20.1 simplifies the current scheme for determining the average weekly wage of an injured worker who suffers a return to incapacity. This change will more certainly determine entitlement and diminish litigation at the Workers' Compensation Court.

In summary, it is our belief that the proposed changes will work to the benefit of injured workers and their employers alike. Please share this recommendation with your committee and we remain available to you for any questions you or the committee may have.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL D. LYNCH