



President
Tony Spicer

Executive Secretary
Treasurer
Andy Sanchez

Executive Vice
President
John Nave

Executive Board

*Robert Bausch
Kevin Bayless
Kimberly Brewer
Brian Burnett
Robert Cammarn
Roberto Delgado
Tony Delich
Mark Elder
John Garretson
Tom Gebken
Russell Hardy
Casey Jensen
Shaun Junkins
Mike Kane
Donna Lehane
Brent Lewis
Ron Perry
Dennis Phillips
Emil Ramirez
Carol Russell
Randy Stithem
Jeff Townsend*

Testimony

In Support of SB 38

Senate Commerce Committee

By John Nave, Executive Vice-president

KANSAS AFL-CIO

March 29th, 2023

Chairwomen Erickson and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me time to speak before you in support of **SB 38**. This bill would give injured workers some dignity while they work to improve their health to go back to work or have some level of quality of life throughout their remaining life resulting from being severely injured at work.

SB 38 addresses compensation for workers who are injured so severely that they may never go back to work. Kansas law limits compensation at a maximum of \$155,000.00. clearly that is not enough to sustain them til the age of 65 when they then receive Social Security.

The states that border Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri, and Oklahoma have a better Workers Compensation system than Kansas. The fact is, we're one of the states at the bottom in this country. Workers in Kansas earn a minimum of seven twenty-five an hour. The fact remains working families have rent, mortgages, groceries to buy, and they take care of their families. Working families put money right back into the economy in their communities.

The unemployment system has been a work in progress and improvements are ongoing. Many of you have heard personal stories of severe hardships in past testimonies. With all elected leaders, agencies, and organizations working together the disability system can be fixed. Now is the time to fix the Workers Compensation system and bring it up to par with the states around us. I ask you to work **SB 38** and bring it to the floor.

Thank you.

