

Written Testimony

House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Development

Re: House Bill 2059 Support  
January 31, 2017  
Howard Johnson, 518 Sandpiper Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Good morning Chairman Mason and other members of the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Development. My name is Howard Johnson. I am a private citizen, an employee and taxpayer, and I live in Lawrence, Kansas.

I got hurt at work on October 16, 2015. As a result of the work-related injury, I ended up having a two-level fusion on my neck. I now have a metal plate and screws in my neck, which I understand will be there for the rest of my life. The surgery did help the pain in my neck, but I still have neck pain and stiffness and am not able to move my neck like I did before the injury.

Dr. Harold A. Hess, M.D., did my surgery, and my attorney showed me Dr. Hess' rating of 6% using the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *AMA Guides*.

I have also reviewed Dr. Hess' deposition transcript, and I understand that if I had been injured before January 1, 2015, my rating under the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *AMA Guides* would have been 25% using the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *AMA Guides*.

According to Dr. Hess' testimony, the surgery to my neck would have been the same in 2014, or for that matter it would have been the same for the last 10 years, or so. I understand the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition has dramatically lowered ratings without any medical, scientific or rational basis.

I believe the workers of Kansas deserve to be treated fairly for work-related injuries, and on behalf of myself and other injured workers I would request this Committee support House Bill 2059.

  
Howard Johnson