

January 30, 2017

Dear Kansas Legislature:

My name is Francisco Pardo, and I am a 13-year employee of UPS. On March 18, 2015, I was injured when I slipped on oil and grease. When I tried to prevent myself from falling off of a piece of equipment, I grabbed a rail with my left arm and sustained a severe jerk of my left shoulder. I was treated by Dr. Mark Rasmussen, who had treated my left shoulder in the past and who told me I had a new tear to my left rotator cuff along with damage to other parts of my shoulder and arm including my labrum. Dr. Rasmussen performed surgery on my left shoulder.

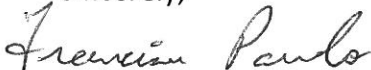
I was off of work for 14 weeks and was paid \$594.00 per week by UPS' workers' compensation. At the time of my accident, I earned approximately \$1,500.00 per week. So, I lost in excess of \$900.00 per week while I was off of work. Because of the cap in weekly workers' compensation payments, I lost almost \$13,000.00 while I was recovering from my work-related accident.

I am married with three children. I am the breadwinner of my family. To be off of work for such a length of time losing so much money was a terrible hardship on my family. We got behind in all of our bills, nearly losing our house in the process. My family and I were completely devastated to find out that even though I live with pain daily, have loss of motion and loss of strength, and have to request help from co-workers due to my new shoulder injury, I was awarded no permanent disability benefits for my work injury.

My lawyer has explained to me that this is because of a recent law change, but frankly, I do not understand it. I got hurt on the job because of UPS' failure to clean up grease and oil on a piece of machinery and on the ground which I had reported to them many times. I followed all of UPS' and the doctor's requests but still went in the hole \$13,000.00 because of this injury.

So as I see it, I have paid for the privilege of getting hurt on the job. This is not fair. Surely all of you here today have friends and family who could get hurt on the job and can see how unfair this is. I beg each and every one of you to make whatever change is necessary to the workers' compensation laws to keep this from happening to any hard-working Kansan like myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francisco Pardo".

Francisco Pardo