

Dear Legislator

I have been a managed care organization (MCO) professional my entire career. I entered into this profession because, like many healthcare providers, I wanted to help people. If you pass S3375, my career will essentially be over! MCOs will be dismantled and the injured worker will have no advocate in their corner to navigate a medical and benefits system of which they are usually wholly unfamiliar.

We are ADVOCATES for the injured worker. While some Petitioners and their attorneys paint us as bullies and “hired guns,” the majority of injured workers appreciate our expertise and hand holding when necessary. We have compassion for injured workers and help them get back to work which benefits the employee and their family, the employer, and the productivity of the State. I am sorry to say that an attorney’s goal with introduction of this bill is to increase the value of a case, especially in light of the unlimited fees portion of the bill. This is a clear conflict of interest. I have no stake in the monetary amount of a disability award that an injured employee may eventually receive.

Is their lawyer going to be available 24/7 to take their calls about a reaction to a new medicine? Does their lawyer know the best orthopedist for complex hand surgeries within a reasonable distance from their home? Does their lawyer have a relationship with a medical transportation company and translation services? Is their lawyer going to make multiple calls to schedule a doctor appointment during that three-hour window that the injured worker is available? **The answers to all these questions is NO!**

If you remove MCOs from the NJ workers’ compensation system, you are harming injured workers and benefitting only their attorneys. The statute was designed to help injured workers receive quality medical care, obtain wage replacement and get back to work as soon as medically possible. S3375 counteracts the purpose of the existing statute and should be withdrawn completely.