

# National Lawyers Guild

## Labor & Employment Committee

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September 17, 2009

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT for AB 483 Buchanan (D-San Ramon)

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the National Lawyers Guild Labor & Employment Committee, I am writing to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 483, which will require companies to make proof of workers' compensation insurance coverage available on the Internet. Providing public access to workers' compensation coverage will help injured workers, medical providers, employers, and state enforcement agencies prevent fraud in the system.

Creation of a searchable database allows employees to identify their employer's insurance company and enables them to file an injury claim directly with the insurer. It also allows a prospective employee to confirm that an employer has coverage before accepting a position. Medical providers can use the database to identify the insurance company of an employer and know where to send their bills for payment. Employers can use the database to confirm that they are, in fact, covered by insurance and are not getting fleeced by insurance brokers.

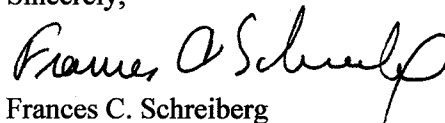
A searchable online database of proof of coverage helps state agencies enforce the requirement that all employers carry workers' compensation insurance. The Department of Industrial Relations, for example, has no direct access to data detailing which employers are and are not insured. Such an antiquated and outdated system allows fraud to continue in the system.

**To date, 33 other states have online proof of workers' compensation coverage databases in use.** California's own Contractors State Licensing Board also provides this information in a searchable public format. It is time for California, the heart of the high tech industry, to follow this practice for all employers and grant online public access to employers' workers' compensation coverage.

Since 1937, the National Lawyers Guild has provided legal support to movements for social change, principally on a volunteer basis. The Labor & Employment Committee [L&EC] focuses on struggles for economic and social justice. In the 1930s the Guild focused on workers' rights, supporting New Deal legislation to assist working people and the unemployed; in the 1950s the Guild defended labor leaders and others attacked for their progressive political views. Then and now, the Guild L&EC actively supports progressive labor and employment law struggles. The L&EC is comprised of several hundred labor and employment attorneys across the country, including those who assist injured workers.

We urge you to sign into law AB 483 (Buchanan), which will ensure that the workers' compensation system serves and protects all parties involved, including injured workers, medical providers, employers and state enforcement agencies. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, and thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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