

# CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES, INC.



September 12, 2011

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

*Ralph F. Simoni*

**SUBJECT: AB 335 (SOLORIO)--WORKERS' COMPENSATION: NOTICE  
STREAMLINING AND UPDATE – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

*Michael D. Belote*

Dear Governor Brown:

*Julianne A. Broyles*

The California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA) respectfully requests a **SIGNATURE** upon **AB 335 (Solorio)**, which is currently upon your desk awaiting action, that will reduce paperwork burdens on employers by streamlining the benefit notices requirements, as well as making the claim process and notices more understandable by injured workers.

*Dennis K. Albiani*

**AB 335** starts the process at the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) to develop and make available to all injured workers the important informational material every injured worker needs to know when dealing with a workers' compensation claim. This information, written in plain language, will be available on the Internet, by mail and at district offices. **AB 335** also streamlines and update notice requirements to ensure notices are both necessary and easily understood by claimants.

*Robert G. Walters  
of Counsel*

CAJPA supports **AB 335** for a number of reasons. First, this measure will help to reduce the excessive number of benefit notices sent to injured employees. The number of notices today has passed beyond the point of reasonableness. In fact, if all required notices for a single claim were stacked together, the stack would be the size of a large telephone book.

**AB 335** addresses the plethora of paper notices by having the DWC's Administrative Director, in tandem with the Commission on Health Safety and Workers' Compensation, review benefit notices, eliminate unnecessary notices and ensure that remaining notices are clearly and simply written. CAJPA also believes it makes sense to refine notices sent to an injured worker to reference only the benefit currently being paid, delayed or denied. CAJPA believes that approach will help to reduce confusion and stress on the injured workers, who are frequently overwhelmed with myriad pieces of conflicting information on their claim.

Last, CAJPA believes that **AB 335's** emphasis on using clear language in all notices and information distributed to an injured worker, as well as making general information available to employees electronically is a commonsense approach to a process currently awash in paper.

CAJPA is an organization of risk management joint powers authorities established by a broad range of local government entities, including cities, counties, school districts, and other special districts. Member JPAs provide cost effective self-insured programs for workers' compensation, general liability, auto liability, fiduciary liability, pollution liability, public officials' errors and omissions, employee fidelity, property damage, health care (general, dental or vision) and short and long-term disability coverage for their member public entities. The benefits to local governments include better local control over their risk exposures, and efficiencies that enable a greater portion of taxpayer dollars to be devoted to other important local programs.

For these reasons, CAJPA respectfully requests a **SIGNATURE** upon **AB 335 (Solorio)** when it comes before you for action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julianne Broyles".

Julianne Broyles

On Behalf of California Association of Joint Powers Authorities

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