

**TESTIMONY
STAN YOUNGER
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REP. SAN ANTONIO AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AEROSPACE COMMITTEE**

Chairman Staples, members of the committee, let me begin by thanking you for allowing me to testify here today on the very important topic of Workman's Compensation in the State of Texas. My name is Stan Younger. I am the General Manager of the San Antonio Citation Service Center. I come to you today wearing two hats, one for Cessna Aircraft Company, and the other for the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. More specifically, the Aerospace Committee of which I am the former Chairman.

In San Antonio, the Aerospace industry represents over 8200 employees and supplies an economic impact of almost Three Billion Dollars. The Aerospace Industry is clearly one of the largest producers of jobs and revenue in the City. Additionally, jobs supplied by the Aerospace Industry pay a much higher wage than the average job in San Antonio. In fact, in the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul sector of the industry, the average wage is over Forty Five-Thousand Dollars. This is 46% higher than the average wage in the entire City. For this reason we find it very important that this dialogue concerning Workman's Compensation be taken seriously, and that it should command the attention to all lawmakers in our State. The seriousness of the matter could affect these jobs, and stunt the growth of the industry, not only in San Antonio, but Statewide.

At Cessna, we consider Safety to be the most important part of our job. As we go to work each day, we intend to send our employees home in as good of condition as when they showed up, just like the customer's aircraft we work on. From time to time, we fail in this endeavor. When we do, we expect our employees to receive the best care that will allow them to heal and return to work with the least amount of pain, displacement, or loss of money for the employee and the company. The workman's compensation laws in Texas do not allow for this result.

Of course the rising costs of health care contributes to the problem, but it is our experience that over the years a few in the medical industry have figured out how to work the system. Couple that with an ill willed employee, and the seeds for fraud and abuse have been planted. Chiropractors have taken the place of primary care physicians in many cases, and treatment of employees has been

extended well past the standard healing time period, and in fact may degrade our employees health even further before a capable physician is asked to get involved. Some treating physicians can be motivated to perform unneeded procedures out of simple greed. The medical community does not have immunity from the vices that make others perform in an unethical manner.

The dispute and arbitration rules are fast becoming a joke, and talk of rulings being made to try and keep the score even between employers and employees infers that from time to time the facts of the case are not even considered in the final outcome. This is not fair to employees as well as the employer.

I join my fellow participants here today to ask that you, our legislators, take up this very important issue. Giving the employee a network of physicians that are experienced in dealing with occupational injuries is vital for all. Knowledge by the treating physician to refer to specialists within a network is also vital. As important, I think, is the ability for the employee to have a resource that can guide them, along with the employer, as a team. Only with the removal of the ability for fraud, abuse, and misuse of the system can a better team-like system flourish.

Thank you again for this opportunity today and I am ready to field any questions that you have for me.