
From: Beth Leschper
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2020 3:00 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: FW: HB 30 Death Benefit

From: Marianne Burke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 1:02 PM
To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 30 Death Benefit

House Finance Committee,
I thought I had emailed all of your members weeks ago re HB 30's death benefit, but it looks like the email never went thru!

Rep Andy Josephson and I have been working hard to help change the death benefit for a single person killed in the workplace where Nothing is given for their lives...even with gross negligence on the part of the employer, as was the case with my daughter Abigail Caudle on June 20th 2011.

Andy said that the death benefit was taken out of the Bill and that it has been re-structured-- that only the PPI increase is in there with a little more death benefit for orphans?

The suggestion, he said, was for Life Insurance. **If the employer would carry life insurance on all of their employees, that *would* be a good solution. But if the employees are to carry it on themselves, it would put all of the work safety burden onto the employees.**

Currently, there is Zero liability to the employer for workplace death because of Workers' Comp. Nothing happened to Raven Electric *at all* for the death of my daughter.

Also, a young employee like Abigail at age 26, would not necessarily think that they needed life insurance. If a young person died in the workplace without insurance, it would continue this No Value for Human Life in the workplace problem that we've had for decades.

Please consider these death benefit/**lack of value for human life** problems in your Hearing today.

I'm sorry that I didn't get this letter out earlier- I thought that it went thru weeks ago, but I kept seeing "processing" and didn't ck back to see that it went thru.

Thank you!

Marianne E Burke

From: Marianne Burke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2020 2:45 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: Kevin Dougherty; Rep. Andy Josephson
Subject: Fw: HB 30 Death Benefit Gone!

Greetings House Finance Committee Members,

HB 30 has been restructured where the death benefit for a single person killed in the workplace was taken out. The problem with that is that there is **No Legal OR Safety protection in the workplace for the single people killed without dependents!**

My daughter, Abigail Caudle was killed in the workplace as a *new apprentice electrician*, yet **Nothing** was given for her life but the funeral costs (that's the employer "cleaning up their mess", in our minds).

And Nothing happened to the employer who inadvertently killed her by gross negligence:

- The circuit breaker was **Not** turned off,
- The employer did **Not Lock and Tag off** as they are required to do,
- She was given an in-adaquate non contact tester (cheap version) that did not sense the live neutral wire that was coming in from a previous re-model job (now they use the more expensive direct contact Meter Tester),
- And there was inadequate supervision...she was a new apprentice that **NEVER** should've been on live wire.

5 Citations and a measly \$11,000 fine were given by OSHA to the employer Raven Electric for my daughter's life. Yet the fine was paid by their insurance carrier, Liberty Mutual!

Nothing happened to the gross negligent employer *whatsoever*- they did not even pay the funeral costs- the insurance carrier did!

Adding insult to injury, Workers' Comp is the *exclusive* (legal) remedy so we could Not go to Civil Court against the employer to get any justice for the lack of value for Abigail's life-- in that she was put in harms way, killed, and not valued as a human being!

Rep Andy Josephson and I have been working hard to help change this death benefit for a single person killed in the workplace for 6 yrs now, as well as the PPI being increased (it has not increased for over 20 yrs for injured workers! Injured workers have been living off of 20 yr old dollar value, yet look at how much everything has gone up in costs!)

In the Bill's last session as HB 38, it almost passed, but I heard that "powerful" (insurance) people came into the legislative office in the final days/hours when the Bill was ready to pass (having been approved by all of the House and Senate Committees) and yet it was nixed in the final hours.

This is very political! The insurance companies do NOT want to pay anything more for a human life- a single person with no dependents- killed in the workplace. Yet the only "benefits" are the funeral costs being paid to the family for their loved one's life?? Are you kidding me?

NO SANE PERSON IN AMERICA CAN BELIEVE THAT THIS IS GOING ON-- WHERE THERE IS NO DUE PROCESS FOR HUMAN LIFE KILLED IN THE WORKPLACE:

--The employer is *not liable*-- Wkrs' Comp protects them,
--Wkrs Comp is the *exclusive* legal remedy--The family cannot sue in Civil Court.

--No Value/"Benefit" is given for the Single person killed with no dependents, but the funeral costs.

Andy said that the death benefit was taken out of the Bill because it was suggested, he said, that Life Insurance. could be purchased:

If the employer *would* carry life insurance on all of their employees, that *would* be a good solution.

But if the employees are to carry it on themselves, it would put all of the work safety burden onto the employees.

Yet, a young employee like Abigail at age 26, would not necessarily think that they needed life insurance.

So, if a young person died in the workplace without insurance, it would continue this No Value for Human Life in the workplace problem that we've had for decades.

Please consider this death benefit/**lack of value for human life** in regards to HB 30.

Thank you.

Marianne E Burke

