**CBA LPRC POSITION REQUEST FORM**

**The CBA Workers' Compensation Law position request is as follows:**

**1) Proposed legislative concept:**

Maintain all eight workers' compensation district offices.  The Capitol continually pressures the Workers' Compensation Commission to propose a cut in its budget that would necessitate the closing of one of the district offices, even though the WCC operating budget does not come out of the General Fund.  For the second straight year, the district office in Stamford is the target.

 **2) Explanation and rationale for advancing this position:**

 Closing a district office, such as Stamford, would not only impact the ability of attorneys and their injured clients in that area to access the hearing process, but the absorption of files into neighboring districts would impact  attorneys with  injured clients in  those areas, too.   This is particularly egregious given that the closing of an office would have no fiscal impact on the state’s budget as the WCC operates outside of the General Fund.

 **3) Is draft legislation or a proposed bill included?**  No.

 **4) What is the date of any legislative hearing, if known?**

 Closing the district office in Stamford was proposed as part of the WCC’s budget filing.

 **5) Was this position previously approved by the CBA? If so, when does/did it expire?**  No.

 **6) Is the CBA section or committee seeking to join a previously approved CBA section or** **committee position?**  No.

 **7) Potential or actual CBA opposition from another CBA section or committee?**  None.

 **8) Strength of section position (including process and results of section vote taken on issue):**

 Approved unanimously by the Executive Committee at its November 14, 2018 meeting.

 **9) Fiscal impact (on the state):**

None.  The Workers' Compensation Commission operates outside of the General Fund.  Its operating budget is funded by workers' compensation carrier and third-party administrator assessments.  The profitability of these stakeholders in the system has risen recently due in large part to the enforcement of the commission's opioid protocols.  There is no rational basis to close, in any geographical area of the state, access by injured workers' to the commission's hearing process.

 **10) Are you seeking “fast-track” approval?**  No.