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Dear Client:

I AM ASKING YOU TO JOIN VOTERS INJURED AT WORK, AND HERE IS WHY:

As you may know, I am a member of the California Applicant's Attorney Association (CAAA). The purpose of this organization is to provide education to attorneys about Workers' Compensation law, and to provide information to lawmakers about how new laws affect workers. There have been numerous changes in California law affecting injured workers. Many good laws that have passed were promoted by CAAA. Many bad proposed laws were defeated by our efforts. In the past, there was always an attempt to balance the interest of workers and the interest of employers and insurance carriers. Everyone has an interest in providing quality medical care, so that workers with temporary and permanent disability get adequate benefits and need not resort to going on welfare or otherwise be unable to support themselves.

There are only about a thousand members of CAAA and we have donated to political campaigns in order to have our voice heard in the legislature. Of course, there are a lot more insurance companies and employers than there are Workers' Compensation attorneys and they have a lot more money than we do. Up until now, we have relied on the fact that the Democratic Party stands up to big businesses on behalf of the working people. That has allowed us to leverage our input, so that laws did pass, although not great, were reasonably fair to injured workers.

CAAA has been representing the interest of injured workers in Sacramento because we know your problems and understand how changes in the law can hurt or help you, the injured worker. Now we have a problem and we are not able to do it on our own. Every injured worker is going to have to step up and make their voice heard. The Democrats were so scared by Governor Schwarzenegger that they allowed him to convince them to pass a law that we were not allowed to comment on before the vote. Even the democratic legislators voted for this law without reading it because they were getting lots of phone calls and emails from employers who said their Workers Compensation bills were too high.

The new laws are terrible for injured workers. They make it hard for injured workers to get the adequate medical care. The new laws have eliminated your right to choose your own doctor. They have drastically cut the benefits of permanent disability. But the one thing they did not do is make insurance companies reduce their rates.

Recognizing that we can no longer protect your interest without your help, CAAA has helped to set up an organization of injured workers. Is it called Voters Injured at Work (VIAW). If you join, VIAW will help keep you informed about who is voting against you, and who is voting for you in the Legislature, so that you can vote intelligently. They will help keep you informed about new laws that your legislators are going to vote on so that you can tell your Senator or Assembly person when you think they should vote yes or no on a new law that will affect injured workers. They will tell you how to communicate your concerns with your legislators. They will help to organize news conferences and demonstrations so that the news and your legislators find out how bad these new laws are for injured workers.

In case you haven't noticed, the government of this country is being increasingly dominated by people who only care about big businesses and rich people. If you do not become informed about what is going on, your rights will be gradually taken away. Insurance executives and owners of big companies can pay for their own doctors and support themselves while they are injured. They don't care if health insurance, medical care, workers' compensation, social security, unemployment and disability insurance are all taken away from you, especially if it saves them money.

The good news is there are more of you than of them. You have to vote or you don't count to the lawmakers. To vote intelligently, you have to be informed. If we do vote together, we will win. **The people united can never be defeated.** But the time is gone when you can expect your lawyer or the Democrats (or Republicans) in the legislature to stand up to the big money interests without your help.

Make your voice be heard and join Voters Injured at Work at www.viaw.org.

Our firm feels very strongly about this organization and its ability to help injured workers. Thus, if you currently have an open case with our firm, and you can provide us with proof that you paid the membership fee to join VIAW (\$25 injured worker or \$35 family), we will reduce our fee at the end of your case by that same amount.

Sincerely yours,
GLAUBER BERENSON

Russell L. Glauber
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