

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday September 1, 2005**

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Permanent Disability Horror Story No. 14: JENNI SOLOMON

“This simple accident at work permanently damaged my life, health, family and finances. I lost my job. We had to sell our home because the benefits I received were so much less than I earned working.”

SACRAMENTO – VotersInjuredatWork.org today released the fourteenth of nineteen Permanent Disability Horror stories spotlighting injured California workers being harmed by the governor’s deep cuts in their permanent disability compensation. Five days remain in the current legislative session for legislators to fix these harmful cuts to injured workers.

JENNI SOLOMON’S PERMANENT DISABILITY HORROR STORY

About Me: My name is Jenni Solomon. I am 40 years old, and was born and raised in Lakewood, near Long Beach. I now live in Georgetown, Texas, near Austin. I couldn’t afford to live in California, where I was injured doing my job.

My Family: I am married, with a daughter, 20, who is in college, and a 23-year-old son who lives with my husband and me.

My Job and What Happened: I worked in Patient Registration at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. The hospital rewarded us with time off for donating blood to the hospital’s blood bank, so I agreed to do so. While donating blood, the attending nurse jammed a needle into my left arm, damaging my nerves. I have constant pain and numbness from my injury. I can’t type or sit at a computer for long periods of time, which is what I did on my job.

What this has Meant to My Life: This simple accident at work permanently damaged my life, health, family and finances. I lost my job. We had to sell our home because the benefits I received were so much less than I earned working. Now, I receive about \$100 a week. I have found a new job, but I can’t replace my former earnings. I lost my health insurance, which also covered my daughter, a full-time student. My husband has had 6 back surgeries. I used to take care of him and do things he could not. My son had to come and live with us to do those things. I never took medication before, but now I have to take several pills daily. My condition will never go away, and in most cases, I am told, it gets worse.

How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me:

BEFORE \$53,695 AFTER \$2,200 (Down 96%)

How Workers' Comp was Supposed to Help Me: Workers’ compensation is supposed to compensate me for the earnings I will lose over my working life due to my on-the-job injury. My Permanent Disability Compensation is my ONLY compensation for the chronic pain, mental anguish, and my inability to enjoy a normal daily life. The small compensation will never replace my lost earnings. The governor’s schedule would take away almost all of my Permanent Disability compensation. What am I supposed to do with \$2,200?

The "Permanent Disability Horror Story" campaign seeks to have the legislature and the governor agree to lessen the governor's drastic reductions in the meager compensation injured workers receive. The legislative leaders promised to change the schedule during this year's session.

For more information and to view Jenni Solomon's Horror Story poster, visit VotersInjuredatWork.org at <http://www.viaw.org>.

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