

Permanent Disability Horror Story No. 15 Susan Benvenuto

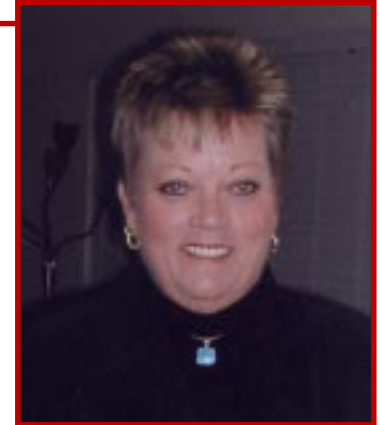
The Schwarzenegger Administration's Disability Rating Schedule severely cuts benefits to permanently disabled workers.

About Me: My name is Sue Benvenuto. I am 58 years old, and I live in Lake Forest in Orange County.

My Family: I am single, and have no children.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as a bus driver for 22 years, most recently at Leisure World in Laguna Hills. I loved my job and was very healthy. I drove a bus for residents, many of whom are in wheelchairs. On January 15, 2004, I was installing a wheelchair brace in the bus, and I injured my wrist and shoulder. I knew something was not right, and within 2 days I was in excruciating pain. An MRI showed damage and I had surgery.

What this has meant to my life: I have a six-inch scar from surgery and I can't lift my arms above my head or grip a steering wheel. I have very little strength and my shoulders hurt if I use them. It's painful now to brush my teeth, put on a coat or even fold towels. I have lost my career and job and now live with constant hand and wrist pain. I used to bowl for fun, but now I can't. I can't even clean my home.



How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me

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 the ONLY compensation I will receive for the chronic pain, daily stress and financial losses. The compensation is supposed to make up for the loss of the many "every-day" things I used to do. The governor's schedule would take away more 90% of my Permanent Disability compensation.

BEFORE	AFTER
\$100,165	\$10,036 (Down 90%)

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