

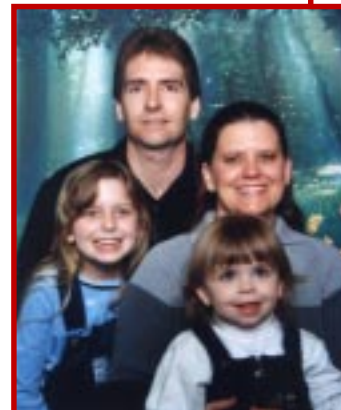
Permanent Disability Horror Story No. 17 DAVID HARRIS

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

About Me: My name is David Harris. I am 36 years old, and I live in Meridian, near Yuba City.

My Family: I am married, with two young daughters, ages 2 and 9.

My Job and What Happened: I worked in an auto paint and body shop, doing many different jobs, including opening up the shop in the morning, sanding down paint jobs, buffing, waxing, pulling cars outside, moving auto parts - whatever was needed, I'd do it - and in double-time. I was at the best point in my career. I got rave reviews and my department was rated as one of the best in the state. One chilly morning while opening up the shop, I bent over and picked up a 40-pound transmission. In doing so, I ruptured two disks in my back. I dropped the transmission and collapsed in pain against a pickup truck.



What this has meant to my life: I could have surgery to put bone where the bad disks are, but there's a 40% chance surgery would make it worse. I recovered somewhat, so I went back to work to support my family. But because of my limitations, I was only half the worker I used to be. Everything took longer to do. Instead of being the fastest, I limped around the shop. It was too painful, so I'm back off work. I loved to mountain bike and skateboard. My wife and I used to bike all around a nearby lake. Now I can barely ride in the car, or enjoy a day at the beach with our kids. My lost earnings have cost my family dearly. My wife works longer now, but our bills are still piled up.

How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:

How can \$8,000 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 my inability to do my old job, or compete with others for similar work, for the chronic pain, mental anguish, and my inability to enjoy my family and my life as I used to. Why is the governor taking away almost all of my Permanent Disability compensation?

BEFORE	AFTER
\$54,782	\$8,040 (Down 85%)

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For more information, please contact Mark Hayes at 714/396-5260 or email to oneinjuredworker@aol.com