

Milton Jones' Injured Worker Horror Story

The insurer took away half of my compensation for permanent disabilities - \$16,000 - SOLELY because I am African-American. I have lost my job, my home, half my compensation and my health after being injured at work.



About Me: My name is Milton Jones. I'm 39 years old, and I live in El Cajon.

My Family: I am a U.S. Navy veteran. I served as a jet and helicopter mechanic and went on many search and rescue missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have one teenaged son.

My Job and What Happened: After getting out of the service I began working as a cook. Eventually, I worked for Costco as a Relief Cook. Part of my job was to clean the large ovens used for cooking whole chickens. I was instructed to do this with a chemical cleaner while the ovens were warm. This resulted in the toxic cleaning chemicals injuring my lungs. I developed chronic asthma, bronchitis, hypertension and high blood pressure. I had never had any of these health problems before my work injury. But the medical examiner "apportioned" half of my permanent disability award to the fact that I am African-American and African-Americans as a group have higher incidence of hypertension. He took away half of my compensation because I'm African-American.

What this has meant to my life: I've lost my job, my marriage and my home in addition to losing my health. I have scar tissue on my lungs and get sick easily and often. I can't do much without getting ill and exhausted. I used to be able to outrun my son. I am now being evicted and I don't know where I will go after this week. While the company fought against covering my work injury, my bills piled up and I had to file for bankruptcy. I received just \$17,000 - half what I'd get if I were not black.

**PERMANENT
DISABILITY
COMPENSATION**

**BEFORE
\$33,320**

**AFTER
\$17,297**

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was to cover my medical care for my work injury and provide compensation for my permanent disabilities. Instead, I'm left homeless and without my health. I was robbed of half of my compensation - \$16,000 - because I am African-American. This is my reward for serving my country and working hard on my job?

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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