



## **SANDRA WILFLEY'S Injured Worker Horror Story**

**“I needed back surgery so that I could go back to work and have a life. The insurance company just ignored the doctor’s request for treatment, so I paid for it myself. Now, I’m out of money and still can’t return to work.”**

**About Me:** My name is Sandra Wilfley. I’m 52. I live in Roseville, near Sacramento.

**My Family:** I have a son, Matthew, 31, and a daughter, Melissa, 28.

**My Job and What Happened:** I worked 11 years for GE Financial Assurance in their Dental & Vision Plan. I managed the Northern CA dental network that consisted of dentists and specialists. I traveled extensively and served as a liaison for the company and the practitioners. On one of my business trips, I was maneuvering my luggage from my trunk and my disc ruptured. I needed surgery. The surgeon requested authorization from the insurer, but they just ignored my doctor’s requests. I had excruciating pain, and could wait no longer. Fearful I would lose my job, I paid for the surgery myself. A polyethylene core between two titanium plates was inserted into my spine. I’ve been denied physical therapy that my doctor had prescribed. I am still not healed.

**What this has meant to my life:** I spent my life’s savings on this surgery because the insurers neglected me. I’m still not able to return to work. I can’t sit nor stand for very long. I used to love to go to movies, concerts, go bicycling and hiking. I can’t do any of that anymore.

## **How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me**

**How Workers’ Comp was supposed to help me:** Workers’ compensation is supposed to provide medical treatment to help me heal and get back to work, and compensation for my disability. I’m stuck between a rock and a hard place. I can’t get back to work because I’m not healed. The insurance carrier refused to OK my surgery and needed treatments. I had to pay for my own surgery and now I’m broke. I’ve depleted my retirement and savings accounts and I am now forced to sell my home. And my back is still injured.

**[www.VotersInjuredatWork.org](http://www.VotersInjuredatWork.org)**

For more information, please contact Mark Hayes at 714/396-5260 or email to [oneinjuredworker@aol.com](mailto:oneinjuredworker@aol.com)