

## AL LORETO'S Permanent Disability Horror Story



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

**About Me:** My name is Al Loreto. I am 53 years old, and I live in Brea, in Orange County.

**My Family:** I am divorced, with one grown son, age 35.

**My Job and What Happened:** I worked as a Floor Installer, demolishing old floors and installing new wood, tile or marble floors in homes. One day, I was working preparing a home for its new owners. I was carrying a heavy roll of carpet on my back when I suddenly slipped on a spill and fell. The next thing I knew, I was looking up at the ceiling! I had landed hard on my back and also twisted my knee. I needed my right knee replaced. I had surgery which left me worse off. I had another surgery, but my right knee still hurts. I injured my back in the fall, and my left knee now is weak from favoring it for five years.

**What this has meant to my life:** It's been five years, and my injury has still not been taken care of. I have not been able to return to work. The financial strain has broken up my marriage. My disability checks have been interrupted several times, causing bills to pile up. We even lost our family dog, who got sick, and we had no funds to take him to the vet. I've been depressed, but counseling isn't approved for me. I am urged to take pain medications, but those just make me more depressed. I'm very worried about my financial future. I just want to get back to work.

### How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me

**How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:** I will lose hundreds of thousands of dollars 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, and also for the loss of my freedom, mobility and ability to do many things in my daily life. I doubt I'll ever return to my job. The governor's permanent disability schedule is taking away compensation I need to pay the bills that have piled up since my injury.

**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

\$102,235

\$41,650

(Down 60%)

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