

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Permanent Disability Horror Story No. 8: Wayne Schuster**

*"I have continuing pain, and I walk with a limp. I can't pay my child support, nor pay the \$700 per month for health insurance for myself and my children."*

SACRAMENTO – VotersInjuredatWork.org today released the eighth of nineteen Permanent Disability Horror stories spotlighting injured California workers being harmed by the governor's deep cuts in their permanent disability compensation. Eleven days remain in the current legislative session for legislators to fix these harmful cuts to injured workers.

#### **WAYNE SCHUSTER'S PERMANENT DISABILITY HORROR STORY**

*About Me:* My name is Wayne Schuster. I am 34 years old. I am of Samoan heritage and I live in Chino Hills, near Pomona.

*My Family:* I am divorced from my first wife, with whom I had three sons, ages 10, 5 and 3. I now live with my girlfriend who has a daughter, 13, and a son, 7.

*My Job and What Happened:* I worked for Delta Airlines for 6 years at LAX airport as a ramp agent. I off-loaded freight and baggage from the planes, and drove tugs that pull baggage carts to the baggage area. On March 22, 2003, I lost a box from my cart as I entered the baggage area. I parked my tug on the ramp and went to pick up the box. The tug's brakes failed and the tug and cart rolled back down the ramp, breaking my leg in 2 places. I had to have surgery, and now have a steel rod from my knee to my ankle, with screws as well.

*What this has meant to my life:* I have been unable to return to work, and unable to pay my bills. I have continuing pain, and I walk with a limp. I can't pay my child support, nor pay the \$700 per month for health insurance for my children and myself. My children - and myself - have no health insurance. The health insurance alone costs more than I receive from workers compensation. Also, I used to play rugby, soccer, volleyball and football -- all of which have been taken from me.

*How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me*

**BEFORE SCHWARZENEGGER ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE:  
\$81,200**

**AFTER SCHWARZENEGGER ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE:  
\$26,700  
(Down 67%)**

*How Workers' Compensation was supposed to help me:* Workers compensation was supposed to provide medical care to heal my injury, retraining for another job, and compensation for having

to live with a bad leg for the rest of my life. The governor is taking away two-thirds of my Permanent Partial Disability compensation.

The "Permanent Disability Horror Story" campaign seeks to have the legislature and the governor agree to lessen the governor's drastic reductions in the meager compensation injured workers receive. The legislative leaders promised to change the schedule during this year's session. There are eleven days remaining to fix these cuts to truly injured workers!

For more information and to view Wayne Schuster's Horror Story poster, visit VotersInjuredatWork.org at <http://www.viaw.org>.

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