

## **LISA ESCALANTE'S Injured Worker's Horror Story**

**“For the first time, our family will not have a Christmas. We can’t even afford a tree. Our water, gas, electricity and cable service was all turned off on the same day last week. The system is horrible for injured workers, but great for insurance companies.”**



***About Me:*** My name is Lisa Escalante. I’m 43 and I live in San Leandro, in the Bay Area.

***My Family:*** My husband, Steve, and I have three children: two sons, Tony, 23; and Michael, 21; and a daughter, Kandie, 15.

***My Job and What Happened:*** I worked as the Manager, and sole employee, of a law office for 10 years. In 2000, from typing all day, I developed carpal tunnel and cubital tunnel syndromes in both arms. I have had 4 surgeries to release the nerves. I did not heal from the 3rd and 4th surgeries and was diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy nerve damage in both arms and hands. That nerve damage has now spread to my legs, feet and the left side of my face, and produced severe chronic pain. I had 14 more procedures over the years until June 2005, when I had a Spinal Cord Stimulator implanted in my back. I contracted chemical hepatitis from all the pain and nerve medications I have

***What this has meant to my life:*** I have gained 120 pounds since the onset of my injury. I weighed 147 and now I weigh 251 pounds. I need physical therapy, but the insurance company has denied any and all physical therapy. The insurance company cut off my Temporary Disability, even though I am not healed. Instead of receiving \$857 every 2 weeks, I am receiving \$340 every 2 weeks. This is not enough to live on. Our water, gas, electricity and cable service was all turned off on the same day last week!

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

***How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:*** I was promised medical care to heal and return to work, temporary disability to support my family while I heal, and compensation for my permanent disabilities. I have been denied medical care, therapy to heal, and my disability payments have been cut in half. For the first time, our family will not have a Christmas. We can’t even afford a tree. The system is horrible for injured workers, but great for insurance companies.

**[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)