



California Applicants Attorneys Association

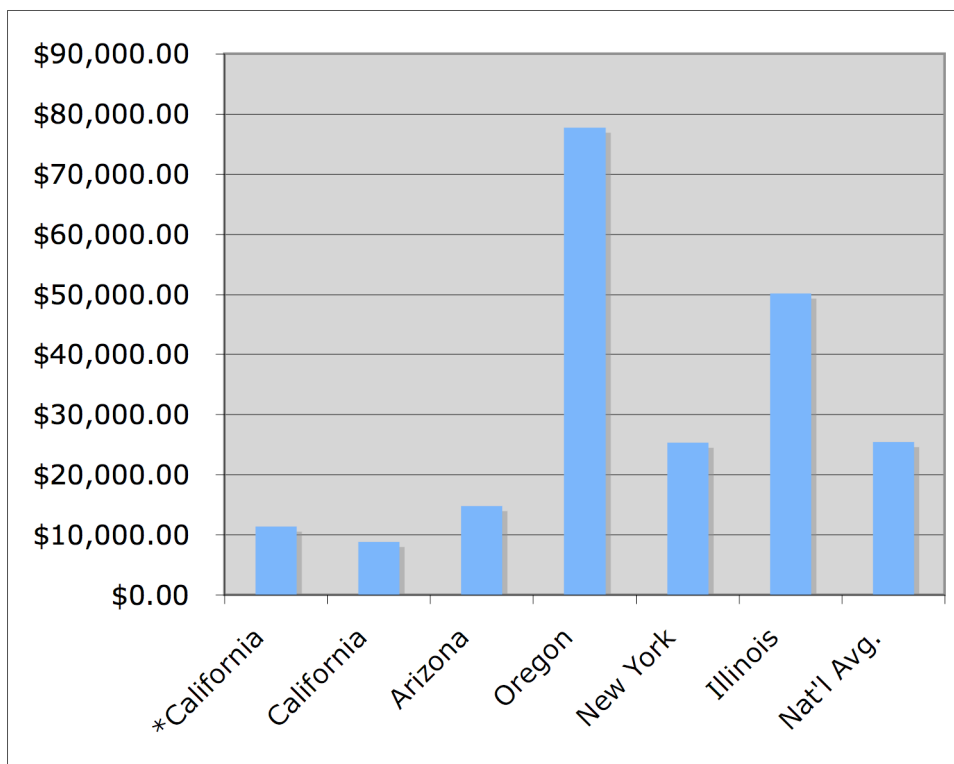
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**New U.S. Chamber Figures Show
Governor’s Permanent Disability Proposal is No Fix;
California Still Ranks Among Lowest in U.S.
*California falling even further behind;
How much is a finger worth?***

Under Governor Schwarzenegger’s new Permanent Disability compensation proposal, Californians injured at work would still receive permanent disability compensation among the lowest in the nation. “Loss of use of a finger in California currently is worth just \$ 8,798.00, which the governor proposes to increase by just \$2,630.60. California continues to be among the lowest, falling even further behind, in the nation in compensating injured workers for permanently



disabling injuries,” said Sue Borg, president of the California Applicants’ Attorneys Association (CAAA), whose members represent hundreds of thousands of workers injured on the job each year. “Injured workers have suffered drastic cuts to benefits, 50 percent of which were never intended by the legislature. Even the administration’s own studies showed a decrease in the average rating of up to 41%. To give some injured workers a meager increase is nearly meaningless. To increase disability compensation for loss of the use of your finger by just \$2,630.00 is insignificant.”

The permanent disability compensation awarded in the workers compensation system is the only compensation most injured workers receive for losing the ability to do many things that we all take for granted each day, and for facing a lifetime of pain and suffering. Had these Californians been injured outside of the workplace they would have received much greater compensation for the life-long effect of their injuries.

* Under the Governor’s proposal, California’s Permanent Disability compensation would remain amongst the lowest in the country.

Source: US Chamber of Commerce, “Analysis of Workers’ Compensation laws,” 2008

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