

HOUSE BILL [25-1300](#): Official City Position

Approved by Westminster City Council on April 7, 2025

REPRESENTATIVE(S): Willford; **SENATOR(S):** Kipp
Concerning modifications to the provision of medical benefits under the state worker's compensation statute.

Official City Position: OPPOSE

Status: **Active** – This bill was introduced in the Senate on March 12, 2025 and was assigned to the House Business Affairs & Labor Committee.

Description:

The bill modifies the provision of medical benefits under the state's worker's compensation statute by giving injured workers control over the selection of their primary treating physician in workers' compensation cases and allowing them to choose from any level I or level II accredited physician through the division of workers' compensation.

City Comments: This legislation is in opposition to the following principles as set forth in the City's [2025 Legislative Policy Statement](#):

HUMAN RESOURCES

Opposes any legislation that interferes with a municipality's ability to determine the terms and conditions of municipal employment

STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES

Opposes unfunded state and federal mandates that impose unfair financial burdens on municipalities and their residents and businesses.

Allowing employees to select their own physician, who may be unfamiliar and unvetted in dealing with Workers' Compensation, could increase costs to the City due to the potential for treatment times to be extended, increase time injured workers are away from work, and require costly Independent Medical Exams (IME) to correct the actions of medical providers who ignore or misapply the Division of Workers' Compensation Guidelines for treatment.

The Worker's Compensation statute under current Colorado law:

- requires employers to offer a choice of physician to injured workers seeking Workers' Compensation medical care and benefits. Allowing employers to have a small selection of experienced, accredited medical providers for injured workers to choose from allows the employer to develop protocols with each one of those providers to get injured workers the care they need in the most efficient, effective and timely manner.
- allows employers to have pre-established protocols in place with the employer's chosen providers ensure the treating physician knows about the employer's modified duty capabilities and the requirements of the injured worker's job, thereby ensuring the injured worker is not sent back to full duty too soon or is given improper modified duty that could reinjure the worker.