

# NO ON 1082

## I-1082 Will Harm Our Economy and Cost Jobs

### HURTS SMALL BUSINESSES AND WORKING FAMILIES

- This effort to privatize our public workers' compensation system will cost the state jobs by raising rates for business and employers.
- The true intent on I-1082 is to enrich big insurance companies at the expense of taxpayers and injured workers. We need to protect injured workers by stopping this insurance company takeover of our public workers' compensation system.
- I-1082 will harm small businesses — the engines of job growth in our economy — by creating an uneven playing field that benefits big businesses. While the private insurers will claim they will offer lower rates, in reality it is the large corporation with clout that will get the benefits. Small employers with little market power will pay sky high rates and be left at a competitive disadvantage.

### A GIVEAWAY TO THE BIG INSURANCE INDUSTRY THAT WILL RAISE COSTS FOR BUSINESSES AND TAXPAYERS

- We can't afford I-1082. It may look harmless on the surface but over the long run it will raise costs and harm businesses.
- Privatizing social security was a bad idea, and so is this.
- The insurance companies will do to our workers' compensation system what Wall Street has done to homeowners. We can't trust the big insurance companies — once they are in control of the system, they are sure to jack up rates for our state's businesses.
- The insurance industry has been raising rates and premiums unfairly and set rates much higher than they need in pursuit of excess profits. That has already happened with health insurance. Don't let them do the same to our workers' compensation system.
- The insurance companies will undermine the system. They will cherry pick lower-risk, profitable businesses, then leave the state stuck with the high-risk businesses —and taxpayers will end up footing the bill.

- Ending the worker's contribution to the system, as this measure would, will mean at least a 25 percent rate hike for businesses. That will cost jobs in this recession.
- This effort to privatize our public workers' compensation system will create skewed incentives that will lead to higher costs over time. In our current system, workers have an incentive to reduce workplace accidents to keep their own costs low. This will eliminate that.

### OUR CURRENT SYSTEM DOES A GOOD JOB OF PROTECTING INJURED WORKERS

- The top priority of our public system is making sure injured workers get the care and job retraining they need. This risky scheme will put profits ahead of caring for injured workers.
- There may be ways to improve the current system, but destroying our public system in favor of a risky privatization scheme is clearly the wrong approach.

### LOOK AT WHO IS PUSHING THIS RISKY PRIVATIZATION SCHEME

- The powerful building industry lobby doesn't care about injured workers, or about protecting taxpayers. They want to privatize the system so they can siphon off millions of dollars to fund their political agenda.
- AIG, which is largely responsible for the near collapse of the financial system, is one of the biggest players in the private workers' compensation market. They will move into Washington State in a big way if I-1082 passes. We've already handed them tens of billions in taxpayer bailouts. We can't risk giving them power over our system of protecting injured workers.