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[Illinois Workers' Compensation Reform, Abolish the Commission](#)

Posted: April 7th, 2011

I am sure you have read the Illinois Statehouse News. State Representative John Bradley, Democrat, filed an amendment to House Bill 1032 calling for the end of the Workers' Compensation system in Illinois. He is quoted in the Illinois Statehouse News as follows: "The workers' comp system in Illinois broken," he said. "It's my belief that it's gotten to a point where the best thing to do is just abolish it, and send the cases back to circuit court."

Wow, Representative Bradley wants to return to how things were 100 years ago. Nostalgic, but is this a viable solution to the purported problems of the Illinois Workers' compensation system? Clearly, a number of work related injuries would not be compensable in a civil justice system. However, in a jury trial system, there is no limitation on recovery when liability is found. This was the very reason Workers' Compensation laws were enacted 100 years ago, provide the worker with a no fault system of benefits and provide the employer with limited liability. Our present workers' compensation system does exactly that which it was designed to do. In fact, in 1975, a national study of workers' compensation was undertaken by a Committee that made suggestions to improve the various state systems. Illinois adopted most of these suggestions. Not surprisingly, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce has weighed in on the issue, but surprise, they are opposed to Bradley's approach. Clearly, the employer community would not want unlimited damages awarded. Representative Bradley wants to bring this up for a vote on the house floor soon. Let's hope we can return to the "agreed bill" process and work out the issues at the bargaining table as we have done for the past 100 years. Injured workers deserve the opportunity to be heard.