



You are subscribed to Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission. This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

<January 28, 2019>

Workers' Comp Commission Responds to Gov. Stitt Exec Orders

January 28 2019, Oklahoma City - Workers' Compensation Commission –

In response to Governor Stitt's recent executive order regarding state agency hiring of lobbyists, the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) identified that it has no existing lobbyist contracts, has never engaged lobbyists, and has no plans to pursue any contracts in the future.

Instead of hiring professional lobbyists, the WCC Commissioners and Executive Director themselves register as "agency liaisons." State Ethics Rules mandate each agency designate a legislative liaison if any communication occurs between the agency and any legislator or staff of the Governor's office.

"I have found the legislators to be very appreciative of someone bringing them information, instead of showing up with their hand out." Chairman Mark Liotta stated, "Creating state policy is the exclusive purview of elected officials, not agency heads. It is our practice to limit our liaison activities to advising legislators and other stakeholders regarding administrative fixes which help us more efficiently carry out their policies at lower cost, and with more accountability."

The WCC is actively engaged in increasing its transparency with the public. One proactive step has been giving fact-based presentations to community organizations and editorial boards regarding the results of workers' compensation reform since its passage in 2013. "The numbers are in, and we can show clear

trends with Four years of data.” Liotta continued. The WCC also frequently presents to lawmakers and members of the executive branch.

Executive Director Hopper Smith Stated, “We have been getting a lot of positive feedback from the folks to whom we present this information. Workers’ Compensation is a difficult subject to understand; particularly difficult, if you don’t deal with it on a daily basis. People appreciate an unbiased, fact-based presentation which lays it all out in the open.”

Oklahoma’s workers’ compensation system was reformed in 2013, establishing the Administrative Workers’ Compensation Act (Act). The Act created the Workers’ Compensation Commission (WCC) which became fully operational effective February 1, 2014.

The WCC provides a forum in Oklahoma City and Tulsa for workers’ compensation hearings and appeals of disputed cases, ensures compliance with relevant statutes by employers, and regulates organizations who wish to self-fund their workers’ compensation obligations. The WCC employs five administrative law judges, 32 operational staff, and currently adjudicates about 8,000 cases per year.

###



Stay Connected with Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission:

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)