



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Oversight Hearing by Senator Tony Mendoza Opportunities & Challenges in California’s Workers’ Compensation System—A discussion on the Progress of SB 863 Reforms**

**Sacramento** – California’s Workers compensation system and implementation of Senate Bill 863 (De Leon) of 2012 will be the focus of an oversight hearing by Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia), Chair of the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM, in Room 2040 of the State Capitol. The hearing will be webcast live at: <http://senate.ca.gov/>

**“Senate Bill 863 was a revolutionary and innovative reform measure that sought to alleviate and correct longstanding issues in California’s workers’ compensation system,”** said Senator Tony Mendoza. **“This oversight hearing will ensure that SB 863 lives up to its commitment of increasing injured worker benefits, speeding up the provision of medical help for injured workers and decreasing workers’ compensation costs for California’s employers.”**

**Who:** Senator Tony Mendoza (Chair) and members of the Senate Labor & Industrial Relations Committee (Agenda below)

**What:** Oversight Hearing of SB 863, the 2012 workers’ compensation reform

**When:** March 25, 2015 at 9:30 A.M.

**Where:** California State Capitol, Room 2040

Created in 1913, California’s workers’ compensation system is a no-fault system where an employer must pay for the treatment of a workplace injury, but the injured worker loses the ability to sue his or her employer. This grand bargain between employers and employees, enshrined in California’s constitution, balances the goal of ensuring that employees receive the care they need to cure and relieve the effects a workplace injury so they can return to work, yet also requires the system to function at a minimum of cost and encumbrance for employers. Over the past 20 years, however, the fundamentals of this grand bargain have become more and more challenging to maintain, as injured workers face delayed and reduced benefits and employers face higher costs.

In 2012, the Legislature sought to help support the grand bargain with Senate Bill 863 (De Leon), which sought to decrease frictional and litigation costs while also speeding up medical treatment and increasing benefits for permanently disabled workers. Many of the reforms have drawn praise from stakeholders, but others have raised concerns. This hearing will trace the ongoing successes and challenges of the implementation of SB 863, as well as discuss future reforms to improve and strengthen the system.

# **Opportunities and Challenges in California's Workers' Compensation System: A Discussion on the Progress and Remaining Questions Surrounding S.B. 863 (Statutes of 2012)**

*An Oversight Hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations*

March 25, 2014 at 9:30 A.M.  
State Capitol, Room 2040

- 1) Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- 2) Workers' Compensation as an Ecosystem: Impacts of the 2012 Reform
  - Dave Bellusci, Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau
  - Alex Swedlow, California Workers' Compensation Institute
  - Mark Priven, Bickmore Inc.
- 3) Administration Perspectives on the 2012 Reform
  - Christine Baker, Department of Industrial Relations
  - Destie Overpeck, Division of Workers' Compensation
  - Dr. Rupali Das, Division of Workers' Compensation
  - George Parisotto, Division of Workers' Compensation
- 4) Payee Perspectives on the 2012 Reform
  - John Duncan, U.S. Healthworks
  - Greg Webber, Med-Legal Records Technology Solutions
  - Dr. Brendan Morely, CA Society of Industrial Medicine and Surgery
- 5) Payor and Worker Perspectives on the 2012 Reform
  - Angie Wei, California Labor Federation
  - Bernardo de la Torre, California Applicants Attorneys Association
  - Bruce Wick, CA Professional Association of Specialty Contractors
  - Martin Brady, School Insurance Authority
  - Jeremy Merz, California Chamber of Commerce
- 6) Public Comment

*Senator Tony Mendoza, a Los Angeles native and former elementary school teacher in East Los Angeles, represents the 32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District encompassing portions of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. For more information about Senator Mendoza visit his [website](#) or follow him on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*