



1415 L Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel. (916)441-4111 • FAX (916)325-4840  
e-mail: info@ccwcworkcomp.org  
Website: www.ccwcworkcomp.org

April 16, 2012

The Honorable Jose Solorio  
Chair, Assembly Insurance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 3146  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2072 (Eng) – Workers' Compensation: Accupuncture  
**OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblyman Solorio,


The California Coalition on Workers' Compensation (CCWC) is an association of California's public and private sector employers that advocates for a balanced workers' compensation system that provides injured workers with fair benefits, while keeping costs low for employers. Our members include not only businesses of every size, but also cities, counties and other public entities.

CCWC must respectfully **OPPOSE AB 2072**, which would allow an acupuncturist to determine permanent disability for workers' compensation if he or she is designated as a qualified medical evaluator. Existing law, while defining acupuncturists under the broad definition of "physician," expressly prohibits acupuncturists from determining eligibility for either permanent disability benefits or for unemployment benefits.

CCWC believes that disability evaluations should be limited to medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy who are trained in all bodily systems and who are able to perform the comprehensive assessment of an individual's health status and functional capacity. There are also concerns about the qualifications of and the level of discipline, experience and training of an acupuncturist to perform these complex duties in a satisfactory manner. For example, under the bill, acupuncturists would be the only qualified medical evaluators determining disability who are not required to have doctoral level training. In addition, disability evaluations are not required training for acupuncturists.

The entire medical legal process is under increasing scrutiny and is likely to be a major part of any workers' compensation reform. This bill, along with other workers' compensation bills, should not move ahead of the anticipated reform. For these reasons and more, CCWC respectfully requests that you **VOTE NO** when the bill is heard in the Assembly Insurance Committee.

Sincerely,

  
Jason Schmeizer  
Legislative Advocate

cc. Members, Assembly Insurance Committee