



**Date:** June 16, 2011

**To:** Senator Ted Lieu, Chair – Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee  
Members, Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee

**From:** California Coalition on Workers' Compensation  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California Manufacturers & Technology Association  
California Restaurant Association

**RE:** AB 211 (Cedillo) – Supplemental Job Displacement Voucher  
**OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

---

The California Coalition on Workers' Compensation, the California Manufacturers & Technology Association, the California Chamber of Commerce, and the California Restaurant Association respectfully take a position of **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED** on AB 211, which would restructure the Supplemental Job Displacement Voucher (SJDV) that is provided to injured workers that cannot return to work.

AB 211, which attempts to make the SJDV benefit more useful to injured workers, does attempt to tackle an important issue in California's system of workers' compensation benefits. The SJDV benefit is important because it provides injured workers who cannot return to their at-injury employer with an opportunity to receive retraining in order to move into another occupation.

Several factors impede the effective use of the current SJDV benefit by injured workers – and we collectively support modifying the benefit to resolve that problem. However, as we move forward with improvements to the benefit, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to ensure that new problems are not created with respect to the administration of the benefit.

Our amendments do not alter the core purpose of AB 211, which is to help injured workers effectively access the benefit to which they are already entitled. Our amendments do, however, ensure that the new SJDV benefit that is created by AB 211 can be effectively administered by employers and insurers. One of the common criticisms of California Workers' Compensation law is that it is incredibly complex and costly to administer. We believe our amendments minimize the impact of adding a new SJDV code section by harmonizing the new section with the old where possible.

For these reasons, we respectfully **OPPOSE AB 211 UNLESS AMENDED** to resolve our concerns.