



June 19, 2017

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Commissioner R.D. Maynard
Commissioner Thomas Limbaugh
Commissioner Thomas Baskin
Idaho State Industrial Commission**

**FROM: Anne Little Roberts, President
Idaho Chamber Alliance
CEO – Meridian Chamber of Commerce**

SUBJECT: Negotiated Rulemaking – IDAPA 17.02.09 Medical Fees

- Blackfoot
- Boise Metro
- Coeur d’Alene
- Eagle
- Garden City
- Gem County
- Idaho Falls
- Jerome
- Kuna
- Lewis Clark Valley
- Meridian
- Mini-Cassia
- Moscow
- Nampa
- Pocatello-Chubbuck
- Rathdrum
- Rexburg
- St. Anthony
- Twin Falls

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and consider our views. I am writing on behalf of Idaho’s chambers of commerce, collectively the Idaho Chamber Alliance, to express our opposition to the above referenced rulemaking docket and the proposal to increase medical provider reimbursement in worker compensation cases.

Idaho Chamber Alliance members represent over 10,000 employers across Idaho who employ hundreds of thousands of Idahoans. We all work together in our respective communities to build infrastructure, neighborhoods, transportation systems and create jobs; jobs that are sustainable and with wages capable of raising a family allowing them to enjoy all Idaho has to offer.

Economic times for chamber business owners are better than ten years ago during the recession. However, the growth and economic gains are not distributed evenly across the state’s business landscape or regions. In some communities, employers remain concerned about unpredictable expenditures and health care related costs that may disrupt their respective business expenses.

For example, at a recent business meeting in Coeur d’ Alene organized to discuss the top concerns of 20 manufactures, medical benefits/insurance rates and costs were the top two concerns. In southeastern Idaho chambers believe that there are other ways to hold even or increase profits for the medical sector through cost cutting measures and rewards systems for educating and encouraging people to live a healthy lifestyle.

It is the Chamber Alliance’s belief this proposal comes at a time when health care costs continue to rise and employee insurance coverage is unpredictable. Now is not the time for government to authorize increases for workers compensation medical fees.