

NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa Ranked Most Effective Workers' Compensation System in the Nation

DES MOINES – The 2009 State Report Card for Workers' Compensation ranks Iowa as the most effective system in the nation. The rankings are distributed annually by the Work-Loss Data Institute.

"Iowa is consistently recognized as having a fair and balanced system," indicated Iowa's Workers' Compensation Commissioner Christopher J. Godfrey. "We are committed to providing impartial assistance in education, compliance and adjudication to both businesses and workers across the state."

The 2009 rankings were derived by scoring each state on five outcome measures: incidence rates, cases missing work, median disability duration, delayed recovery rate and a key condition of low back strain. The Work-Loss Data Institute utilizes data provided through the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. By using standardized federal data, the Institute is able to control for data variations.

"Iowa consistently ranks among the states as having one of the lowest premium rates for Iowa employers and as having one of the highest compensation rates for pay out to workers" stated Commissioner Godfrey. "The combination of all of the factors makes Iowa a great place for business growth and provides a valuable safety net for injured workers. Because of this, Iowa is frequently considered a model program and other states work to achieve our success."

Iowa's Workers' Compensation system has three core functions: adjudication of disputed workers' compensation claims, enforcement of compliance standards, and education of Iowans about workers' compensation law and procedures.

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