



## Pending Legislation

**Worker's Compensation Reform:** Wisconsin has some of the highest medical costs for worker's compensation in the nation. Employers have tried to manage the high costs by investing in safety and reducing injuries. In fact, from 1994 to 2014, **workplace injuries dropped a dramatic 58% in Wisconsin, falling from 219,975 per year to 93,228.** Unfortunately no cost savings materialized because the medical cost per claim rose over 450% over the same time period.

WPMCA has joined the Worker's Compensation Employers Coalition in support of Senate Bill 665 which will help rein in worker's compensation costs in Wisconsin. The bill includes the creation of a medical fee schedule, which 44 other states have done, to help reduce costs.

***Action Requested: Please support Wisconsin employers and bring worker's compensation medical costs under control. Please support SB 665.***

**RFG Waiver Request:** Under the Federal Clean Air Act the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires retailers in 6 Wisconsin counties (Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha, Racine, and Kenosha) to sell reformulated gasoline (RFG). The requirement dates back to the 1990's when air quality in the region was poor. Since that time, however, air quality in the region has significantly improved and conventional blends of gasoline have become substantially more environmentally friendly so the need for RFG has passed. The RFG requirement can at times create challenges for WPMCA members in the RFG zone or who do business in both RFG and non-RFG areas (wholesalers). Being granted a waiver to have the opportunity to sell conventional gasoline in the RFG areas would put all retailers on the same playing field.

***Action Requested: Please support Rep. Kremer and Sen. Stroebel in their efforts to petition the EPA for a waiver from the requirements to sell reformulated gasoline in the designated areas. Please support AB 558 and SB 463.***

**Litigation Reform:** The high costs of civil lawsuits can be extremely challenging for small business owners. Current discovery rules allow lawyers to drive up the cost of litigation to the point a business has no choice but to settle a completely meritless case because the cost of going to court is too high.

The goal of Assembly Bill 773 and Senate Bill 645 is aligning Wisconsin's civil procedures for discovery and class actions to the corresponding federal rules. This modernization, mostly aimed at costly discovery practices, will reduce litigation costs for small and large businesses, as well as state and local governments who must spend taxpayers' dollars responding to aggressive discovery practices.

***Action Requested: Please support Reps. Born and Nygren and Sens. Tiffany and Craig in their efforts to introduce common-sense reforms to address the high transactional cost of litigation. Please support AB 773 and SB 645.***