



**For more information, contact:
Becky Robinson, 405-882-1204**

Oklahoma Supreme Court Upholds Historic Workers' Compensation Reforms

(Oklahoma City – December 16, 2013) The Oklahoma Supreme Court has upheld the state's workers' compensation reforms contained in SB 1062. Today, the Court issued the following ruling:

"It is ordered that Senate Bill 1062 is not unconstitutional as a multiple-subject bill and the Legislature has exercised proper authority in a matter over which it has power to act by adopting a code for future execution of workers' compensation law. Until such time as a case or controversy or a justiciable issue is presented to the Court, we are without jurisdiction to rule further with regard to the Act."

Becky Robinson, chair of the Oklahoma Injury Benefit Coalition, offered the following statement in response to the Court's ruling, "The reforms contained in SB 1062 include choices, savings and guaranteed protections for injured workers. Passage of the legislation and the Court's ruling offer promising solutions to a workers' compensation system that has failed Oklahoma. SB 1062 will mean jobs for Oklahomans and fuel for our state's economy. Passage of this historic legislation has sent a message to Oklahoma employers and employees that state leaders recognized the need to fix a broken system. It has sent a message across the country that Oklahoma is open for business."

The OIBC was formed in 2011 by some of Oklahoma's leading employers with the goal of building support for an effective and fair alternative to the Workers' Compensation Court. After working for reforms in 2011 and 2012, the coalition's members worked tirelessly for the adoption of SB1062 in 2013.

Robinson added, "The Court's ruling is a major victory for those who have advocated for a better system."

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