



September 13, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For more information, contact:
Steve Edwards, 918-809-2985**

Statement from Mark Schell, Co-chair of the Oklahoma Injury Benefit Coalition, on today's ruling by the Oklahoma Supreme Court on the Oklahoma Option workers' compensation process

"Today's ruling by the Oklahoma Supreme Court regarding the Oklahoma Option in its current form was expected. Although disappointing, it does not take away from the overall success of the 2013 workers' compensation reforms.

"It is no surprise that plaintiff lawyers who vigorously opposed the game-changing reforms in 2013 have filed dozens of legal challenges in an attempt to derail the progress the state's new system has provided.

"Last week the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) filed a loss cost decrease of 10.2% for 2017. This reduction, which is based solely on the Administrative Act, brought the NCCI's total workers' compensation rate reduction to 44 percent over the four year period since the reforms were adopted. The state has gone from being recognized as having one of the most costly workers' compensation systems in the country to a trendsetter by adopting innovative changes that benefit all parties and will help bring jobs to Oklahoma.

"While many challenges still remain, the workers' comp reforms adopted in 2013 have streamlined the state's workers' comp system and are good for employees and employers. The OIBC will continue to work with the Legislature to preserve and improve the progress that this historic legislation has provided Oklahoma despite the opposition of those who cling to the old, more litigious system from which they benefited."

###

The Oklahoma Injury Benefit Coalition is an organization of Oklahoma employers united by their commitment to reforming the state's workers' compensation system to protect workers, reduce litigation and to foster a competitive business environment.