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**AFT Michigan**

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## **House Bill 5002 Hurts Michigan Workers**

**House Bill 5002 (Brad Jacobsen (R-Oxford))** would modify the Michigan Worker's Compensation Act in ways that redefine injury and income that severely limit a worker's ability to receive worker's compensation. It also creates new restrictions on when an injured worker can see his or her own physician and the medical procedures used for treatment.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Creates “Imaginary Wages” – Regardless of Available Work**

The bill defines “wage earning capacity” as the wages the worker is capable of earning, whether or not actually earned. This sets up a precarious situation for the injured worker. If he or she is determined to have the capacity to earn, even though not employed, that dollar amount is deducted from the worker's compensation formula.

- **Hurts Older Workers Too – with “Imaginary Pension”**

Older workers are placed in a similar predicament. This bill says if you are “eligible” for a pension, regardless of your financial ability or desire to retire, the amount of “potential pension” would be deducted from your worker's compensation formula.

- **Employer Controls What Doctor Treats You**

Currently, after ten days from the inception of medical care, the worker can choose to treat with a physician of his or her choice by providing the employer with the name of the physician and the intent to seek care from that individual. This bill would increase that time period to 45 days, meaning that the employer chooses who provides medical care for the first 45 days.

## **Tell Your Legislator to Oppose House Bill 5002**