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Submission No.:	02
Name of Presenter:	n.a.
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March 10, 2004

Re: Worker's Compensation Review

Dear Sir or Madam:

I believe the current Worker's compensation system is overly geared toward income replacement, rather than compensating employees for giving up the right to sue employers. I was exposed to tuberculosis in the workplace, and became Mantoux positive as a result. I was pregnant when this was discovered, and therefore could not take antibiotics right away. Seroconversion to Mantoux positive was itself a major stress, but the time delay to start taking antibiotics increased the duration of the stress. A course of antibiotics was eventually started after I finished breastfeeding. This course of treatment, however, was prematurely stopped due to the side effects of the antibiotic. INH is a very toxic antibiotic, and it was causing liver problems. My liver enzymes were above 200—a normal result is around 30. In the long term, I'm worried that the tuberculosis could become active when my immune system is weakened for some other reason. I'm worried that tuberculosis could shorten my life, and this may very well occur in my retirement years. This would mean no lost work time, and yet a death caused in the workplace. How will you compensate me for this? Where is the disincentive for my employer to have provided me with an unsafe workplace?

Recently a study was released saying that women who take antibiotics face an increased risk of breast cancer, proportional to the amount of antibiotics taken. Before this, I had only taken one five-day course of antibiotics. The antibiotics (INH) for tuberculosis lasted for months, so now there is a new source of stress for me. If anyone other than my employer had exposed me to this deadly set of events, I could launch a multi-million dollar lawsuit for damages. I feel as though the current compensation system has left me twisting in the wind. Please do not contact my employer, and keep this confidential.