

CAPITOL UPDATE

All CCWC-Opposed Bills Vetoed by Governor Newsom

The Governor has acted on all of the legislation that CCWC was monitoring. The Governor has until September 30 to sign or veto bills sent to his desk.

Below is a breakdown of actions taken by **Governor Newsom:**

CCWC supported AB 1239 by Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, which extends the sunset date on current law to allow the use of pay cards in the delivery of indemnity benefits. Permanent authorization by the legislature is dependent on a study that



has yet to be completed by the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC). Governor Newsom SIGNED this bill into law.

CCWC supported AB 2337 by Assemblymember Diane Dixon, which allows the use of electronic signatures in compromise and release documents at the WCAB. The bill reinstitutes a COVID-era policy that improved efficiency. Governor Newsom SIGNED this bill into law.

CCWC opposed SB 1058 by Senator Angelique Ashby, which would extend LC 4850 salary continuation benefits to all park rangers in every county. CCWC opposed this bill because there was no evidence that enhanced benefits are needed for park rangers and the bill would constitute a new expense to local public agencies. Governor Newsom **VETOED** this bill.

CCWC also opposed Senator Dave Cortese's SB 636, which was introduced in 2023 but failed to advance. The bill is yet another attempt to require UR doctors who perform utilization review for private sector workers' compensation claims to be licensed in California. Under current law, UR doctors can be licensed in any state because the guidelines being applied are peer-reviewed, nationally recognized standards that don't correlate in any specific way to the California licensing standards. Governor Newsom VETOED this bill.

Finally, CCWC opposed SB 1299 by Senator Dave Cortese, which would create a presumption that heat illness claims are work related if filed by a farm worker whose employer did not completely adhere to all aspects of the CalOSHA Outdoor Heat Illness regulations. While we agree that employers should adhere to regulations, the bill is poorly conceived and contains several technical problems that make it unimplementable. Governor Newsom **VETOED** this bill.

This brings the 2023-2024 legislative session to a close. Fortunately, all the bills opposed by CCWC that would have increased costs for employers were either defeated in the legislature or vetoed by Governor Newsom.

We encourage you to join our Year-End Legislative Review webinar on October 22. Register here.





