

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, BREADON,
DURKAN, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN,
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CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S.1165 "AN ACT TO PROTECT INJURED WORKERS"

- WHEREAS,** Workers being injured on the job and not being properly compensated is all too common in Boston and in the Commonwealth; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Nationally, less than 40% of workers who are eligible for workers' compensation benefits apply for them, according to data from the National Employment Law Project; *and*
- WHEREAS,** It is illegal for employers to prevent injured employees from apply for workers' compensation but there are no public enforcement mechanisms for those who do; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Employers often have the upperhand and discourage their employees from filing workers' compensation claims in fear that the claim could drive up their rates, reveal that they don't have workers' compensation insurance, a proper amount of insurance or open them up to scrutiny which could reveal other unrelated violations; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Employees that want to take employers to court over worker compensation claims are often pressured not to and fear retaliation; this is especially true for immigrants and those who are undocumented; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Employees seeking workers' compensation claims are discouraged by the process which requires them to file a claim and hire a private attorney to recover benefits, which could take months, delaying crucial medical care; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Oftentimes lawyers won't take workers' compensation cases unless their client has been fired the claim which is close to impossible to prove; *and*
- WHEREAS,** S.1165, sponsored by Sen. Jamie B. Eldridge, would empower the Attorney General's Office to investigate and resolve retaliation complaints, specifically for those employees who are retaliated against after making a workers' compensation claim; *and*

WHEREAS, This bill would empower more employees to seek workers' compensation claims and strengthen anti-retaliation law for workers so they can assert their rights, protect themselves from employer misconduct, retaliation or any other efforts to deprive them of their compensation rights; and ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council supports S.1165 "An Act to Protect Injured Workers" and urges members of the Massachusetts Senate to support the measure.

Filed on: May 1, 2024