

Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Bonham and members of the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

My name is Gabrielle Dibble and I sustained a workplace injury while working a minimum wage job at a gas station when I was in college. I did receive Workers Comp but the process felt unfair and I do not think that workers should have to use their own sick leave to cover their workplace injury related doctor's appointments and physical therapy sessions.

I was injured because a coworker did not follow our safety procedures when stacking a huge shipment of energy drinks in our freezer. When I went into the freezer to retrieve some flats of the drinks, the stack was unsteady and fell on me. I sustained a concussion and other injuries.

Going through the stress of that injury and the Workers Comp process made me scared to report future injuries. I know that some people don't even report their workplace injuries because the process seems so unfair.

Allowing injured workers to be paid for their time to go to their doctor appointments and physical therapy sessions, like so many other states already do, would make us feel less like we are being punished for getting hurt at work.

Gabrielle Dibble