



March 24, 2007

Hon. Dale M. Volker
New York State Senate
427 State Capitol Bldg.
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Volker:

On behalf of the 2,500 employer members of the Partnership, I applaud you for your support of the recently-adopted workers' compensation reform legislation. For too long, the high costs associated with workers' compensation have been a deterrent to business growth and development in Buffalo Niagara and across Upstate. This legislation is a good first step in creating a system that is more beneficial to both employers and the workforce in New York State.

We were encouraged by the fact that when Governor Spitzer signed the bill into law, he did so acknowledging that more work to reform workers' comp in New York remains – beyond what is included in the new law, as it was passed by the state legislature. We urge you to continue to push for further changes to the system, including streamlining the claims review process, designing new diagnostic and treatment protocols for medical professionals and developing training materials that will assist administrative law judges in making consistent case determinations

Allow me to add that workers' compensation reform is just one item on the agenda for Unshackle Upstate. The coalition's next priority items on which you'll be hearing from us – as announced during our recent Upstate-wide trip to Albany – are Scaffold Law reform, changes to the state's economic development delivery system and the Wicks Law.

Again, I commend you for your foresight and for hearing the cry of the Buffalo Niagara business community on this issue. We look forward to continued dialogue on workers' compensation and on other reforms forwarded by Unshackle Upstate necessary to creating a strong business environment in Upstate New York.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Rudnick
President & CEO