

## **LAURIE DARR'S Injured Worker Horror Story**

**“I hurt my back, nearly died after back surgery and still need more surgery to put rods in my spine. I’ve lost my job and my savings. The governor’s schedule awards me just \$7,816.”**



**My Family:** I am married, with four children: Serena, 27; Ryan, 25; Eric, 24; and Ashley, 12.

**About Me:** My name is Laurie Darr. I’m 47 years old, and live in Corona, in Riverside County.

**My Job and What Happened:** I worked for Target as a Sales Floor Clerk. My job entailed cleaning and picking up the sales floor, helping customers and backing up cashiers. In October, 2003, I was working at a new store in Corona. At night, after closing, we were cleaning up the store for the next day. Hurrying to finish up so we could make our timetable, I was clearing a table of shirts and putting them in a shopping cart for storage. Carrying an armload of clothes, I twisted to put them in the cart, and felt a pop in my back. I told my supervisor that something had happened, and sure enough, I had herniated a disc in my back. I’ve had surgery, spending 13 days in the hospital because my spinal fluid leaked during the operation, causing me to pass out. I’m still not healed. The doctors want to operate to “fuse” my back with hardware, but after my last life-threatening surgery, I’m reluctant to go under the knife again!

**What this has meant to my life:** I’ve lost my job, and can’t work. I’m in constant pain. I can’t bend over, enjoy my friends or family, or volunteer for my church or localsports league as I used to do. I’m a faithful churchgoer, but I can’t even ride in the car long enough to get to my church! I can’t even take my youngest daughter shopping.

**BEFORE**  
**\$98,000**  
**Plus \$39**  
**a week for life**

**AFTER**  
**\$7,816**  
**TOTAL**

## **How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me**

**How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:** Workers compensation insurance was to provide medical treatment to heal my injury. That didn’t work out so well with the complications from my surgery. I was to be compensated for the disabilities I’ll live with for the rest of my life. The amount the governor’s schedule awards me won’t even pay my past due bills.

**[www.VotersInjuredatWork.org](http://www.VotersInjuredatWork.org)**

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