

# Workers' Compensation Reform *must begin with* Justice for Workers

**DID YOU KNOW THAT** families of workers injured and killed on the job in New York State receive less than half the weekly benefits as do similar families in neighboring states, such as Massachusetts and Connecticut?

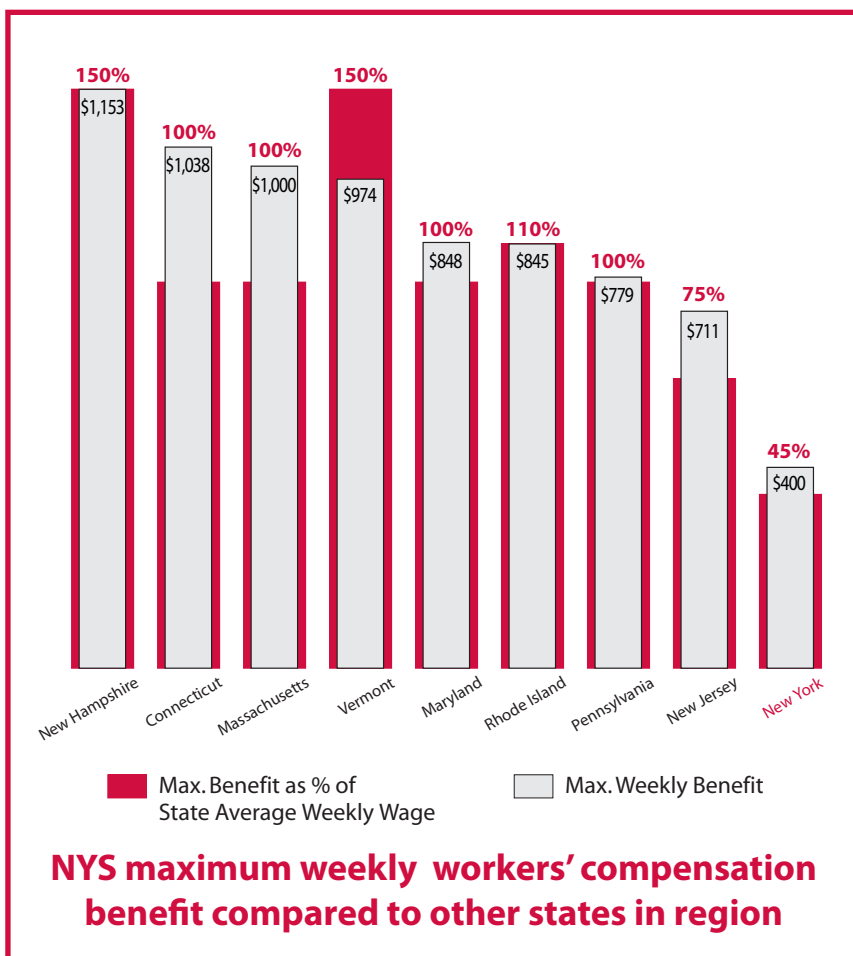
## Why?

**Because** New York's injured workers receive the third lowest maximum benefit in the United States—\$400 per week. That's lower than many low-wage states, like Georgia, and Alabama!

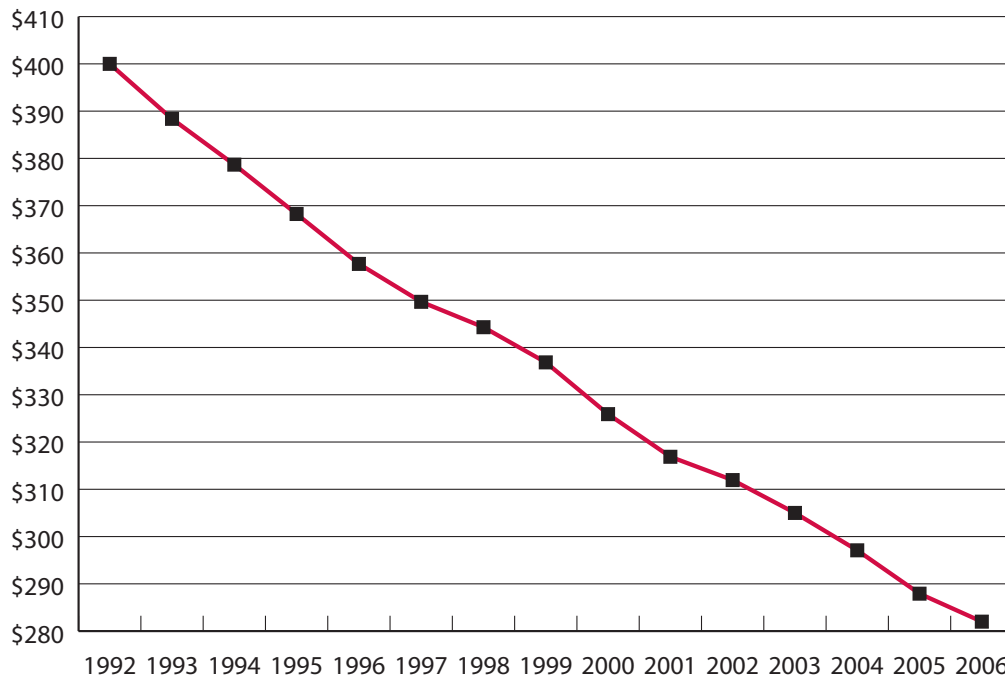
**And it's getting worse.** New York is one of four states that do not increase benefits to keep up with inflation. Injured workers in New York have not received an increase in benefits for fifteen years.

**Inflation has ravaged** the meager benefits that injured workers receive. In real dollars, the \$400 per week that a totally disabled worker received in 1992 is now worth only \$282 per week.

**Most injured workers** get much less than the maximum benefit because, if you are injured on the job, you get two-thirds of your gross average weekly wage up to a maximum of \$400 per week. So if you are earning less than \$600 per week, you will get less than \$400 per week. And, if you are not totally disabled, you might receive as little as \$40 per week.



## Decline in the value of maximum weekly rate NYS workers' compensation



**WRITE** Governor Spitzer and the leadership of the legislature to demand that injured workers receive an immediate maximum benefit increase—with no cuts in other benefits.

### Please write to:

The Honorable Eliot Spitzer  
New York State Governor  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

The Honorable Sheldon Silver, Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Rm 932  
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable Joseph Bruno, Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
Legislative Office Building, Rm 909  
Albany, New York 12247

***Justice  
requires  
no less.***



**New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH)**

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