



**Kevin Campbell**

President

**800-508-9126** (w)

**877-234-6089** (f)

**850-832-7699** (m)

The public rate hearing was held in Tallahassee recently and the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) heard testimony from the NCCI along with other stakeholders regarding the proposed 19.6% work comp rate increase proposed to take effect 10/1/2016. The OIR closed the public comments section of their hearing web site last Tuesday and it is expected that the OIR will announce their decision on the rate filing in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

I attended the annual Workers' Compensation Institute conference in Orlando this week and the recent landmark Florida Supreme Court rulings along with the proposed rate increase were the hottest topics discussed. I had a sit down meeting with both the Director and the Assistant Director of the Florida Division of Workers' Comp. They were of the opinion that the OIR will approve a rate increase closer to the 12.7% mark effective 10/1/2016 and will use those rates for the next 15 months up until 1/1/2018. This would allow the NCCI time to collect additional data on how the major changes to the system (i.e. removal of the claimant attorney fee cap, extension of the 104 week TTD benefits cap) impact the behavior of claims.

The wild card in all of this is the Florida legislature and what/when their response will be. The word out of Tallahassee back in May was that there were no plans to hold a special session this Fall. If a substantial rate increase is approved, then there may be enough political pressure for Tallahassee to act. If not, they will tackle the issue when they come back into session in March.

As soon as the OIR announces their decision, I will pass the news along to you. As always, thank you for allowing my agency to service your workers' compensation coverage needs.

Best wishes,

Kevin