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**WORKERS'
COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

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June 20, 2018

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
Maryland General Assembly
H-1-1 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission (MdWCC) and the Workers' Compensation Research Institute (WCRI). As you may be aware, WCRI is an organization located in Boston, Massachusetts and focuses on issues of concern to the stakeholders in the workers' compensation community.

MdWCC participated for approximately ten years in the WCRI CompScope studies which collected data from many states and reported its research findings annually. A primary purpose of the study was to analyze costs and trends in medical care for injured workers. We frequently relied on this information in determining our policies and approaches. The cost to participate was quite high, \$190,000 per year, but MdWCC believed CompScope was a valuable resource.

The facts in your letter of May 24, 2018 regarding MdWCC and WCRI are totally accurate. After conducting our own research and analysis of the data, the veracity and reliability of the WCRI reports were suspect. At that point, MdWCC ended its participation in CompScope and WCRI programs. We continue to pay a small membership fee (\$250 annually) to WCRI because this entitles us to receive their reports, etc. This allows us to scrutinize any references to Maryland and our workers' compensation system.

For the past four years, MdWCC has continued to review the data on prescription costs and dispensing. We have seen a gradual reduction in the percentage of prescriptions dispensed by physicians to the most recent level of 14.9%. It is the position of MdWCC that this issue does not require either regulatory or statutory action.

I would be happy to discuss this matter if I might be of assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Karl Aumann". The signature is fluid and cursive, extending across the width of the page.

R. Karl Aumann
Chairman