

“SIBTF Stepped in Where Workers' Comp Left Me Hanging”

California's Subsequent Injuries Benefits Trust Fund must be protected. I was employed just a couple of years ago as a pedestrian supervisor at Tesla when I slipped and landed on my hands. Previously, I was working at Chicago Title when I became partially disabled. With both companies, I was paid the appropriate workers' compensation for my injuries. Yet, in the end, I was left with far less money than I need to support myself now that I am 100% disabled and unable to work. I have to constantly take pain medication. Tasks as simple as cooking, cleaning, or walking are impossible for me without a pill. I have totally exhausted my workers' compensation money and have to rely on my husband's business amid an economic downturn to survive. We're barely hanging onto life in the Bay Area as is. SIBTF is the lifeline we need to survive, but my case has been pending for over a year. The proposed changes to the program might not make me ineligible, but they would force me to start all over. I can't afford to wait any longer. If they pass, I'll seek out work. I'll have to juice up on medication just to make it through a day — I don't want to, but it looks like that might be what I have to do to survive.