

HB 1455-FAV

My name is Thomas Preslar, and 22 years ago I was the victim of a domestic violence murder-suicide that occurred at my secondary part-time job. I was actually shot through the arm & back, and it took Dr's over 7 hours to puzzle-piece me back together. I was A completely innocent bystander that had no ties or involvement whatsoever to either party, and was simply doing the responsible thing trying to make a better life for my family by earning additional income. However, since I was shot while CLOCKED IN at my part-time job, which was a basic gas station position, I wasn't LEGALLY permitted to claim any of the lost wages from my career job position as a carpenter building houses full-time, due to Maryland's Workers Comp laws. If it wasn't for those laws, I never would have gone through any of the financial hardships that I struggled through back then & that I still deal with today 22 years later.

Without claiming both sets of lost wages from the 2 jobs, I was only permitted to receive 80% of my part-time weekly income. That meant I went from making thousands of dollars each month, which was enough to cover all the rent, utilities & household bills for myself & my young wife at the time, to making only \$224 bi-weekly each month. After a year of dealing with my physical, emotional & financial issues from the shooting, my wife couldn't take it anymore & she left. After losing my marriage, my house, my car & even my ability to clap or tie my shoes, I was forced to move back into my parents house at the age of 23 with no hope or outlook for my future. After starting over from scratch with nothing, I was able to make a career for myself in the car business simply because I can physically do it with 1 hand. My hope is to see the Maryland Workers Comp laws corrected by allowing injured parties the ability to claim ALL of their lost wages from every job they currently have, so their families never go through the same things my family & I have dealt with for the past 2 decades. Thank you for your time.

