



## **ARAWC STATEMENT IN REACTION TO OK SUPREME COURT DECISION ON DILLARD'S V. VASQUEZ**

The Association for Responsible Alternatives to Workers' Compensation is disappointed with the Oklahoma Supreme Court's decision just handed down in Dillard's v. Vasquez. This case rested on a provision unique to the Oklahoma state constitution, so the decision will have little impact on what other states do with regard to their own Option. We take this opportunity to point out that, in the relatively short time since the Oklahoma Option was created, Option plans are resulting in better medical outcomes for injured workers compared to traditional workers' compensation. The Oklahoma Option was working and was good for both employers and employees.

The Supreme Court decision ignored the important fact that the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation System did not find any wrongful denial of benefits to the claimant in the case now before the Court, and ignored the key fact that this illustrates the ongoing attempts to get workers' compensation to pay medical expenses for illnesses and injuries that happen away from work.

We will redouble our efforts to raise awareness in other states of the advantages of innovation and competition for both employees and employers and of their role in helping states recruit and retain businesses which provide jobs. Successful Option plan should include four core principles: better communication, employee advocacy, more employer-employee-medical provider accountability and more competition.

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