



# State of New Hampshire

## Department of Labor

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James W. Craig  
Commissioner of Labor

March 28, 2014

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
And The Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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### REQUESTED ACTION

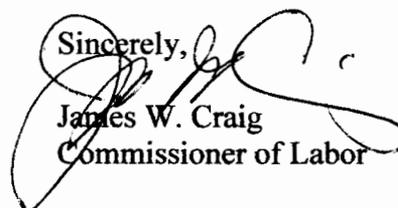
Pursuant to RSA 94:6, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor respectfully requests that Kathryn J. Barger, Director of the Workers' Compensation Division, be placed at the maximum step for the position of Deputy Labor Commissioner (9U074), unclassified salary grade HH, earning \$100,170.95, annually effective upon G&C approval. Funding is 100% non general funds. - Agency Income

### EXPLANATION

Ms. Barger has been with the department of labor for 26 years and has been director of the workers' compensation division for 24 years. Her current labor grade is 33, step 8 at a salary of \$88,296. The workers' compensation division makes up 80% of the labor department. Ms Barger is responsible for all hiring and supervision in the division as well as for developing long term policies for the division. She coordinates the rulemaking processes for the department and testifies before the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules when necessary. She also provides education through speaking engagements to carriers, employers and attorneys. The hearings and appeal processes are under her direct supervision and both processes provide participants with timely hearings and decisions.

Ms. Barger's resume is attached and I trust that you will agree with me that her years in both the insurance business and in State Government make her a valuable asset to the department. It would be difficult to find someone as experienced in both Workers' Compensation and State Government as Ms. Barger. Additionally, her placement would allow her to train a successor in her current position which is critical to the smooth operation of the department.

Based on Kathryn Barger's extensive qualifications, I request Ms Barger be placed in the Deputy Labor Commissioner position, unclassified salary grade HH, at the maximum step.

Sincerely,  
  
James W. Craig  
Commissioner of Labor

**Kathryn J. Barger  
3 Wildflower Drive  
Concord, NH 03303  
603-491-8516 (c)**

**Employment Experience:**

**April 1988 – Present**

**State of New Hampshire Department of Labor  
Workers' Compensation Division**

**June 1990 – Present**

**Director**

- Management of division of workers' compensation staff which includes attorney, hearing officers, program specialist and support staff.
- Development of long term policies and processes which affect all parties involved in the workers' compensation system
- Public speaking to organizations to help develop a better understanding of workers' compensation, to employers to develop programs to utilize the cost containment aspects of the law and to attorneys to work with those in the system to continually make the system better
- Assessments of fines to employers, adjusters and carriers who violate the statute
- Review processes within the department to determine the next LEAN project
- Coordinate the rulemaking process for the division to ensure regulations comply with the requirements and timetables of the Administrative Procedures Act.
- Oversee hearing and appeals processes
- Commissioner's designee at the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council

**January 1989 – June 1990**

**Special Funds Coordinator**

- Overall administration of the Second Injury Fund, Special Fund for Active Cases and Administration Fund including claims review to determine eligibility and approving requests for reimbursements.

**April 1988 – January 1989**

**Claims Supervisor**

- Reviewed, investigated and resolved workers' compensation claims, processed hearing requests, reviewed and approved permanent impairment awards and reviews of claims for administrative review of benefits.

**Educational Background**

Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan  
Cum Laude Graduate, B.A., Psychology