State Top Industry Issues Report 2023
Texas
122 Responses

1. Lawsuit Abuse Reform
- Promote state-level reform to cap damages paid to plaintiffs in truck-involved crashes.
- Advocate for elimination of "phantom" medical damages.
- Quantify the impact of third-party litigation funding on trial outcomes.

2. Insurance Cost / Availability
- Advocate for lawsuit abuse reform to reduce nuclear verdicts and frivolous lawsuits.
- Develop framework for potential upfront insurance premium reductions when drivers and carriers adopt proven safety technologies.
- Educate the public on the role of lawsuit abuse in increasing consumer prices and insurance costs.

3. Driver Shortage
- Research the primary factors behind drivers leaving trucking careers.
- Support an industry-funded outreach program to improve the trucking industry's image.
- Advocate for expanding interstate CDL eligibility to 18-20-year-old drivers.

4. Economy
- Identify and promote reforming / repealing ineffective and burdensome regulations that increase industry costs without providing benefits.
- Quantify the impact of increasing trucking operational costs on the supply chain and nation's economy.
- Advocate for reshoring and near-shoring of equipment and parts manufacturing to reduce the reliance on international supply chains.

5. Fuel Prices
- Advocate for federal policies and actions that help stabilize the supply of fuel and minimize price increases.
- Research potential factors that may be affecting fuel availability and pricing volatility.
- Quantify the impact of alternative and renewable fuel sources on motor carrier operational costs.

6. Broker Issues
- Research the scale and financial impact of broker fraud, double-brokering and freight dispatch services on motor carriers and truck drivers.
- Produce a guidebook for trucking companies that describes the most common issues in broker contracts.

Issues and strategies are listed in order as ranked by Texas-based respondents.

7. Driver Distraction
- Advocate for national standards for distracted driving laws for all motorists.
- Encourage harsher penalties and more aggressive enforcement of distracted driving laws for all road users.
- Quantify the role of car driver distraction in car-truck crashes.

8. Driver Retention
- Evaluate the impact of truck driver benefits, including health insurance and retirement benefits, on driver retention.
- Conduct market research on truck driver experiences and perspectives mapped to truck driver tenure data.
- Research and promote the retention strategies of carriers that continuously experience low driver turnover.

9. CSA
- Encourage FMCSA to regularly review and evaluate the list of crash types available for reclassification as non-preventable.
- Advocate for FMCSA to speed up the DataQ process by improving internal processes for reviewing Request for Data Reviews (RDRs).
- Work with FMCSA to update its carrier prioritization methodology, improve its accuracy, and enhance transparency in CSA.

10. Driver Training Standards
- Research the impact of Entry-Level Driver Training regulations on highway safety.
- Work with driver training schools to develop and/or update "best practices" and model curricula.
- Evaluate the role of FMCSA's Training Provider Registry in improving driver training.

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