

# New Yorkers Need the Scaffold Safety Law



**ALEJANDRO ALPIREZ** was working as a construction worker on the 16th floor of a building when he was ordered to cut a ceiling pipe that was not secured. It fell, hitting his head and then the scaffold, causing Alejandro to fall. He was never given the proper safety equipment that would have protected him from harm, including a safety harness/lanyard, and his scaffold was unsecured, lacking guardrails/handrails and not fully planked. Alejandro suffered tremendously,

going blind in one eye and near-blind in the other, losing much of his hearing, and severely injuring his neck, back, and wrist. He is no longer able to work and support his family.

By failing to provide proper safety equipment and by improperly securing the scaffold, Alejandro's employer broke the law, nearly costing Alejandro his life. When he went to court he proved, after he and his employers presented their evidence before a judge, that:

- **HE FOLLOWED** all of the directions on his worksite
- **HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING** to cause his injury, and
- **THE OWNER OR GENERAL CONTRACTOR** failed to provide proper safety equipment

BECAUSE OF THE SCAFFOLD SAFETY LAW, ALEJANDRO WAS ABLE TO RECOVER MONEY TO COMPENSATE FOR HIS INJURIES AND HELP PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY.

## Insurance Companies Need to Be Held Accountable

**MANY EMPLOYERS** are worried about the cost of liability insurance to protect workers. We wholeheartedly agree that these costs should not become a disincentive for doing business or creating jobs. So instead of sacrificing worker safety by gutting the Scaffold Law, we believe that insurance companies should open their books to the public so the public can determine if the premiums being charged to contractors are

justified. New York State Assemblyman Francisco Moya introduced legislation this year — the Construction Insurance Transparency Act — that would require insurers to do this.

The extensive lobbying of insurance companies against this transparency-based legislation, and their insistence that they're being bankrupted by the Scaffold Safety Law, leads one to wonder: what do they have to hide?

Protecting the Scaffold Safety Law ensures that New York construction workers are being protected, which is what all New Yorkers deserve.



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