



## **Florida Summit on Preventing Needless Work Disability – June 1 & 2, 2008**

### ***Unique Event Brings Fresh Ideas to Stay-at-Work / Return-to-Work Process***

Two hundred carefully selected Floridians will assemble in Orlando on June 1 and 2, 2008 to find better ways to help people who are coping with illness, injury or aging to stay at or return to work – and stay employed. A local grassroots organization is planning a stakeholder summit to protect the well-being of Florida's workforce by keeping people active, engaged, employable and contributing to society while also assuring that their employers are able to conduct business and be economically sustainable. The Florida Stay-at-Work Consortium is composed of volunteers who are healthcare providers, employers, insurers and others seeking to improve the service now delivered by disability benefits and workers' compensation systems.

Florida's event is affiliated with The 60 Summits Project ([www.60summits.org](http://www.60summits.org)), a national initiative to convene summit meetings in all 50 US states plus the 10 Canadian provinces. The 60 Summits Project promotes the adoption of a blueprint for improvement of the stay-at-work and return-to-work process that is laid out in a free 20-page whitepaper from the American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) ([www.acoem.org](http://www.acoem.org)). The whitepaper highlights the destructive impact of prolonged absence from work and job loss on peoples' lives and then calls on individuals in different sectors of society to find ways to work together to help people stay at work and employed. In Summit events, assembled stakeholders use the ACOEM whitepaper as a framework for discussion.

The Florida Summit on Preventing Needless Work Disability is scheduled to take place at the Rosen Hotel & Conference Centre in Orlando in the late afternoon of June 1 and all day June 2, 2008. Attendance is limited to roughly 200 participants whose work brings them in contact with the disability benefits and workers' compensation systems. Attendance is being structured to provide a proportionate number of the key stakeholders throughout the state of Florida. If you wish to learn more, request an invitation, or be involved as a sponsor of this unique and extremely important event please visit [www.60summits.org/FL](http://www.60summits.org/FL).

February 2008