**HUMAN STORY**

As a result of the May 25, 2023 accident, Mr. Gebremariam continues to experience daily disruption of his daily life due to the physical and emotional distress sustained. This is his story.

**Physical Limitations**

Despite specialist treatment, Mr. Gebremariam continues to experience daily neck and back pain. This impacts his everyday activities and enjoyment of life. Before the collision, Mr. Gebremariam led a very active life with an exercise routine: he used to go to the gym 3 to 5 times a week. After the accident, due to his injuries and pain, he was unable to resume his gym routine for five months. Upon returning to the gym, he has found he can only perform very light exercises, as he tries to regain the strength and performance he had prior to the accident.

**Work**

The pernicious effects of the accident extend to Mr. Gebremariam’s work activities. Mr. Gebremariam used to enjoy an abundant life with steady income. As a result of the collision, Mr. Gebremariam had to **quit** his trucking job – his only source of income. The injuries and the pain that he suffered meant that he could not withstand the 10 to 12 hours of driving that are required of such a job. The constant nature of his pain and disability meant he was unable to take up employment for months after the accident, which led to mental and financial stress and suffering.

**Relationships**

Mr. Gebremariam’s relationships have been strained as a result of the accident. Due to being unable to work, he was forced to move away from his siblings in Seattle: he could no longer afford to live there, as the cost of living was too high. Mr. Gebremariam relocated to Denver, Colorado in order to be able to afford his living expenses. This caused distance between him and his family, both physical and emotional. His loss of income, then, deprived him of the human connections he had in Seattle and removed him from the social fabric that he integrated, causing him great distress.

**Mental Health**

Before the accident, Mr. Gebremariam was able to fall asleep within 10 minutes of lying down. Now, it takes far longer for him to fall asleep; and the quality and quantity of his sleep has dimished greatly. Moreover, Mr. Gebremariam occasionally suffers nightmares about the accident and wakes up with feelings of anxiety and fear.

As previously stated, Mr. Gebremariam had to quit his job due to the injuries he suffered. This led to great anxiety and stress over his loss of income, and caused him fear of becoming homeless. This led him to take drastic measures: he relocated to another state with more affordable living costs, leaving him without the everyday emotional support of his family and friends.

While driving, Mr. Gebremariam feels an unhealthy alertness and paranoia. Whenever he is traveling near commercial trucks and/or semis, he feels scared and wants to get away from such vehicles, which leads him to change lanes or detour to avoid traveling near them. This is a daily fact of Mr. Gebremariam’s life.

**Conclusion**

At the time of this collision, Mr. Gebremariam lived a normal and active life. The accident disrupted his daily life activities; he had to seek medical care for his injuries and pain; he had to quit his job; he lost his only source of income; he had to relocate to afford his basic living expenses; he lost touch with his friends and family, and was unable to count on their emotional support to process the trauma of the accident and his difficulties with daily living activities. His quality of life has, in short, been greatly eroded by the May 25, 2023 accident. Despite his sustained efforts to overcome these obstacles, the consequences of the collision continue to have a detrimental effect in Mr. Gebremariam’s life.