TO: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives

FROM: Kevin Shimp, Director, Labor & Legal Affairs

RE: Upcoming Floor Vote on House Bill 308

Date: February 12, 2020

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 308 (HB 308) because it will begin a costly slippery slope resulting in a workers’ compensation system that is unworkable and detrimental to Ohio’s business climate. House Bill 308 accomplishes a commendable goal by providing peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians with medical coverage for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. However, it is a mistake to provide this coverage through Ohio’s workers’ compensation system.

Voters authorized Ohio’s no-fault workers’ compensation system by adopting Article II, Section 35 of the Ohio Constitution in 1912, and for over one hundred years the system has provided time-off and medical benefits for physical injuries at Ohio’s workplaces. The physical injury component is fundamental to workers’ compensation law, so removing that requirement for entire classes of employees – like HB 308 proposes – opens the flood gates to workers’ compensation covering all mental injuries for all classifications of employees.

With the passage of HB 308, it is only a matter of time until Ohio’s workers’ compensation system covers other mental only injuries and proves to be a hindrance to Ohio’s economic competitiveness since a workers’ compensation system that covers all mental injuries for all classes of employees will substantially harm Ohio’s business climate.

We urge you to vote NO on House Bill 308. Your vote will be recorded in the Ohio Chamber’s Free Enterprise Index which is a compilation of your voting record on key pro-business legislation that is made available to the public and sent to all Ohio Chamber members.

If you have any questions about this bill or the Ohio Chamber’s position, you can contact me at: KShimp@ohiochamber.com or 614-629-0916.