



# KEY VOTE ALERT

**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](mailto:KShimp@ohiochamber.com) or 614-629-0916.

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