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## **Ohio Chamber of Commerce Testifies in Opposition of House Bill 435**

*COLUMBUS, OHIO* – Keith Lake, Vice President of Government of Affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, today gave testimony on House Bill 435 (HB 435) before the House Commerce and Labor Committee, strongly voicing the Ohio Chamber’s opposition to the legislation.

“Unfortunately, bills like HB 435 – or worse, HB 248 – interfere with employers’ freedom to make decisions about protecting their workforce, and to develop the health and safety policies and practices that meet the needs of their individual workplaces,” said Lake in his testimony. “In short, they limit employers’ freedom to operate their businesses.”

On Monday, September 27, 2021, HB 435 was introduced as a placeholder bill, initially including nothing but a statement of intent to enact legislation regarding vaccines. A day later, the actual bill was released, presented to the House Health Committee and reported by the committee on a party-line vote without receiving any public input.

The initial plan was for the bill to be considered for final passage by the full House last week. However, amidst wide-ranging opposition as well as frustration over the rushed process, the House opted not to take an immediate floor vote on HB 435, instead re-referring it to committee this week for further consideration.

Though more narrow than HB 248, the vaccine-related bill that had previously gotten the most legislative attention and to which the Ohio Chamber has twice testified in opposition, HB 435 still infringes on the rights of Ohio's employers by limiting COVID-19 vaccine mandates. The Ohio Chamber strongly believes a one-size-fits-all government mandate that limits the ability of employers to set their own workplace policies is not the right approach.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full text of today's Ohio Chamber testimony on HB 435.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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