



KEY VOTE ALERT

TO: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives

FROM: Keith Lake, Vice President, Government Affairs

RE: Upcoming Floor Vote on House Bill 218

DATE: November 18, 2021

Throughout the course of the debate this year over the various bills proposing to change Ohio's vaccination laws, the Ohio Chamber has expressed our opposition to any legislation that inserts government into the middle of the employer-employee relationship, interferes with the ability of employers to return to pre-pandemic operating levels, or represents an inappropriate government intrusion into the private sector.

Unfortunately, the amendments that were made to House Bill 218 today in the House Commerce & Labor Committee do just that, and the Ohio Chamber now opposes this legislation. As a result, your vote on HB 218 will be reflected in the Ohio Chamber's General Assembly Voting Record.

Employers have a legal obligation to provide a safe workplace, but HB 218 limits their options as they try to ensure the safety and wellbeing of employees and customers. Further, employers know that one important factor in getting our economy fully back to normal is stopping the spread of the virus, which makes health and safety measures paramount to a business's profitability and survival, as well.

Businesses continue to do the best they can in responding to the many challenges and consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. They don't need to be micro-managed by the government telling them how to best run their business. Because HB 218 represents unnecessary government overreach and infringes upon the rights of Ohio's employers, we urge you to vote "no" on HB 218.

If you have any questions about this bill or the Ohio Chamber's position, please contact me at 614-228-4201 or klake@ohiochamber.com.