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Ohio Chamber Supports House Passage of House Bill 447

COLUMBUS - Today, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce supported the Ohio House passing House Bill 447 (HB 447) with a unanimous bipartisan vote. The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Brian Lampton (R-Fairborn), establishes a new definition of what is a compensable workers' compensation injury for employees who work from home.

"Updating Ohio's workers' compensation law to reflect the reality that there are risks common to the household that do not exist in a typical workplace is an important part of reforming Ohio law to address new workforce patterns following the coronavirus," said Ohio Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve Stivers. "We applaud Rep. Lampton for his leadership on HB 447 and all members of the Ohio House who voted for this priority legislation of the Ohio Chamber."

House Bill 447 modifies what type of injuries qualify as an on-the-job injury for employees who are working from their homes. Under the legislation, an eligible workers' compensation injury for remote employees must be caused by a risk of their employment rather than a risk that exists in their house and is independent of their job.

For example, an employee whose job duties include working at a computer would remain eligible for employer paid time off and medical benefits for carpal tunnel or other similar injuries resulting from the employee's computer usage. However, a work-from-home employee tripping over the family pet, falling while meeting a delivery driver at the door or spilling hot coffee on themselves would likely not receive workers' compensation benefits.

House Bill 447 now moves on to the Ohio Senate for consideration. The Ohio Chamber will continue our advocacy in support of the legislation, since more employees than ever before are working from home.

As the state's leading business advocate and resource, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce aggressively champions free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. With members ranging from small businesses to international companies, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce represents Ohio's business voice.

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