



*BEFORE THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION, COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE  
PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HB 52  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015*

Good morning Chairperson Manning, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Cafaro, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Labor Committee. My name is David Lockshaw, and I am the director of labor and legal affairs at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 52, which contains the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's budget for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate, and we represent nearly 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is a champion for Ohio business so our state enjoys economic growth and prosperity.

The Ohio Chamber supports BWC's budget because it reflects sound fiscal management. BWC is requesting \$552.5 million over the next biennium, which represents a 4% decrease from the previous biennium. In 2013, BWC gave employers *A Billion Back* and in 2014 it gave employers *Another Billion Back*. Soon, the Bureau will transition to prospective billing. As a result, employers will receive a \$1.2 billion transition credit.

In addition, base rates for private employers have been trending downward significantly in recent years. Once this year's reduction of 10.8 percent takes effect in July, private employer rate levels will be 21.4 percent lower than they were in 2011. All of this amounts to Ohio becoming a better, more competitive and affordable place to do business.

We applaud the Bureau for asking for less money, while continuing to invest soundly and operate efficiently. Ohio's employers have been the beneficiaries. Thank you for allowing me to comment.