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June 6, 2017

The Honorable Jay Hottinger
Chairman, Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: House Bill 27

Dear Chairman Hottinger:

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I write to you in support of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Budget contained in House Bill 27. The Ohio Chamber supports BWC's budget because it reflects sound fiscal management. BWC is requesting \$566.5 million over the next biennium, which is flat from the previous biennium.

In addition, rates for private employers have been trending downward significantly in recent years. Since 2011, these rates have dropped an average of 28.2% leading to \$755 million less being collected from employers. By increasing coverage options for employers through the BWC's Other States Coverage program and expanding safety grants, the BWC has been promoting safety and protecting employers and employees throughout the state. All of this amounts to Ohio becoming a better, more competitive and affordable place to do business.

The Ohio Chamber also greatly supports language added to House Bill 27 that decreases the timeframe to file a workers' compensation claim following an injury from two years to one year. Early reporting of an injury leads to faster treatment and better outcomes for all parties. This will increase efficiency and provide greater predictability in the workers' compensation setting. Further, this provision does not change the statute of limitations for occupational diseases that may develop over a longer period of time.

This change is good for Ohio's businesses, employees, and the workers' compensation system. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Don Boyd
Director, Labor & Legal Affairs
Ohio Chamber of Commerce