



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

MATTHEW J. DETEMPLE, Executive Director
MARISA MYERS, Director of Governmental Affairs
6500 Taylor Road, Suite A • Blacklick, Ohio 43004
(614) 863-0045 • Fax (614) 863-9751
www.OhioTownships.org

2018-2019 Officers

Connie Fink, President
2645 Fawn Lane
Zanesville, OH 43701

Tim Lynch, 1st Vice President
5614 N. County Road 11
Tiffin, OH 44883

Ed Huff Jr., 2nd Vice President
P. O. Box 306
Ansonia, OH 45303

Scott Fabian, Secretary-Treasurer
126 Montgomery Lane
Mingo Junction, OH 43938

2018-2019 Board of Directors

Lynda Bowers
6440 Ryan Road
Medina, OH 44256

Dale Dielrich
38415 Rock Camp Road
New Malamoras, OH 45767

Bob Entenmann
1400 Washington N. Road
Mansfield, OH 44903

Daniel Frederick
49 Main Street
Milan, OH 44846

Ed Good
56080 Matts Lane
Shadyside, OH 43947

Ellen Homan
402 Pine Road
Ft. Recovery, OH 45846

Larry Johns
09280 Glynwood Road
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Marissa Lautzenheiser
9091 Sandyville Road N.E.
Mineral City, OH 44656

Carl Mangun
3063 Lustre Road N.E.
Carrollton, OH 44615

Ron Miller
4161 Bethel Road
Bucyrus, OH 44820

Sandra Reichley
17540 State Route 664 S.
Logan, OH 43138

Gary Salmon
7350 Brookville Road
Oxford, OH 45056

Tom Shay
686 Kale Adams Road
Leavittsburg, OH 44430

Robert Trowbridge
7777 County Road F
Delta, OH 43515

Steven Woolf
8803 Baltimore-Phillipsburg Road
Brookville, OH 45309

John C. Zizka
9177 Asbury Road
Mantua, OH 44255

June 3, 2019

The Honorable Scott Oelslager, Chair
Finance Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 80 BWC Budget

Dear Chairman Oelslager:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to express our opposition to a provision in House Bill 80 that would allow peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical workers diagnosed with PTSD to be eligible workers' compensation, regardless of whether the person suffers an accompanying physical injury.

This initiative is a drastic departure from the current and past state of the law that requires a mental condition, such as PTSD, to arise from or, at the very least, be associated with some physical harm experienced by a worker. HB 80 not only expands PTSD coverage to those cases not related to physical injury, but also marks a significant change to the types of claims eligible under Ohio's workers' compensation law. The OTA believes there could be significant cost implications with this change. Further, without cost projections and estimates on increased claims, we cannot determine the full impact HB 80 will have on townships and other public and private entities.

Once a fundamental pillar of the worker's compensation system, like the physical injury requirement, is compromised, the potential inroads into the program are endless. Additionally, there are no additional parameters around the coverage of PTSD, such as if claims must be work-related, tied to a single incident, or if there are time limits for coverage. House Bill 80 does not consider these guardrails that may be appropriate.

The OTA is also concerned about singling out PTSD. Selecting one mental condition to the exclusion of all others – much like selecting only a few occupations – will undoubtedly provoke fairness arguments and equal protection challenges in future legislative or judicial actions.

Therefore, the OTA opposes this provision due to concerns with cost and the difficulty in putting parameters around such a policy change. The provision in HB 80 would be better suited for standalone legislation to fully assess the implications of this change.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. Should you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me or Marisa Myers, OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeTemple
Executive Director

MJD:mm