



February 12, 2020

The Honorable Tom Brinkman  
Chairman, House Insurance Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St., 11th floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Brinkman:

Our organizations, on behalf of our members, write to you today to encourage the House Insurance Committee to vote no on Amended House Bill 308.

Collectively we have long advocated for a workers' compensation system in Ohio that benefits workers, employers, and the economy of the state. Over the past decade the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation has continued to make strides in medical outcomes and actuarial soundness.

The Ohio workers' compensation system was designed to compensate injured workers' physical injuries/illnesses and any mental conditions that arise as a result of such physical injuries/illnesses. Our organizations have a history of opposing proposals that would permit PTSD compensation where there is no associated physical injury or illness. The adoption of a mental-only diagnosis would create a significant departure to longstanding and clear precedent in Ohio workers' compensation system law.

Expanding PTSD coverage in the workers' compensation will lead to cost increases to Ohio's public and private employers. In addition, given that mental health benefits have parity with physical health benefits under health insurance plans, it is important to have a broader conversation about where PTSD arising apart from a workplace physical injury/illness is most effectively and appropriately financed -- health insurance, an emergency responder fund, or a separate PTSD benefits system as advocated by our collective organizations.

Therefore, we would respectfully ask that the House Insurance Committee delay voting on House Bill 308 or in the alternative vote no on House Bill 308 in order to find a solution that all interested parties can support.