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Chairman Brinkman, Vice-Chair Antani and members of the House Insurance Committee, we would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 573.

We understand that typically occupational disease is a disease resulting from exposures that occurred in the workplace, and we expect that opponents to this bill will say how do you know that grocery store worker contracted COVID-19 at work? The reality is that we will never be able to say with absolute certainty where the worker contracted the disease when the state has not been able to develop a robust tracing program. We do know that these frontline workers have a significant increased risk of contracting COVID-19 because of the state's demand for a continuation of essential services. We believe it is a responsibility of the state to make sure these workers are cared for when we are asking them to undertake this increased risk.