



**Senate Bill 384**  
**Proponent Testimony**  
**12/8/2020**

Chairman Schuring,

On behalf of the Ohio Trucking Association (OTA) I write you today to express our support for SB 384, which would provide first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) coverage options, while protecting the foundation and stability of Ohio's Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) system.

In our opponent testimony to HB 308, we argued that granting BWC coverage for so called "mental-mental" claims for a select group of employees runs the risk of greatly expanding the number of workers' compensation claims being filed and could pose significant costs for both public and private employers. By creating the State Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Coverage Fund and providing coverage outside of BWC, Ohio will be able to provide coverage to first responders without jeopardizing the BWC system. The process proposed in SB 384 will also allow the state to provide coverage to a specific group of employees, without raising equal protection concerns, which was another issue we raised in our opposition to HB 308.

We would like to thank Senator Hackett for developing this innovative approach to addressing this issue and urge this committee's support for SB 384

Thank you for considering my comments today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom B".

Thomas A. Balzer, CAE  
President and CEO  
Ohio Trucking Association

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