



**Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee
HB 80 Interested Party Testimony
County Commissioners Association of Ohio, Ohio Municipal League
& Ohio Township Association
June 19, 2019**

The above local government organizations, on behalf of our members, write in opposition to the provision in Amended Substitute House Bill 80, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) budget, proposing to allow peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical workers to become eligible for workers' compensation benefits once they have been diagnosed with work-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) regardless of whether the person suffers an accompanying physical injury.

This provision is a drastic departure from both current and past state law. 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. Our members have concerns about the unknown cost implications of this policy change and the potential for a significant increase in claims.

As currently written, the language in HB 80 does not include any parameters around the coverage that have been considered in the past, such as if claims must be tied to an identifiable single incident or time limits for compensation and benefits. Such guardrails may be appropriate.

Additionally, with the June 30th deadline for passage of the BWC budget fast approaching, we believe we lack the necessary time to have important conversations around potential details and parameters for this expansion of coverage. This particular provision of HB 80 would be better suited for standalone legislation to fully assess the implications of this change.

We respectfully ask that the Ohio Senate remove the PTSD coverage provision from the bill and restore HB 80 to its As Introduced version.