May 11, 2021

Representative Tom Brinkman
Chair, Ohio House Insurance Committee
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Brinkman:

On behalf of the 21,000 governing members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Ohio, we are writing to express support for Substitute House Bill 75 (HB 75), the 2022-2023 Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) budget. The proposed budget continues the administration's focus on keeping rates low for employers while getting injured workers the care they need to get back to work as quickly as possible.

By way of background, a typical NFIB member in Ohio employs 20 or fewer employees and does less than $2 million in annual receipts. Our members come from all industry types and each of the 88 counties. Our members range in size from sole proprietors to large operations employing hundreds. The vast majority of our members are state-fund employers who are required to purchase workers' compensation coverage from the BWC.

We are supportive of the following "cleanup" sections of the budget to help streamline operations at the BWC:

- If a claim for permanent total disability has been denied by the Industrial Commission, a claimant must show new and changed circumstances before re-filing the application.

- Align the statute of limitations for occupational disease claims with all other types of claims at one year. This will streamline claim filing procedures and still allow for claims to be filed one year after disability, due to the disease, began or such longer period as does not exceed six months after diagnosis of the disease – or within one year after death occurs.

- Sync the timeline for filing permanent partial disability for both temporary total disability claims and claims where wages are paid in lieu of compensation.

In addition to containing and reducing administrative costs, the BWC has been able to offer billions in rebates and credits to employers all while offering significant rate reductions. We applaud the BWC and the administration for putting more money in the hands of Ohio's job creators – small businesses. We believe this budget allows the BWC to continue the positive trajectory of the agency.

NFIB supports the passage of Substitute House Bill 75 and may consider it a key small business vote of the 134th General Assembly. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jared K. Weiser
Ohio Member Benefits Program Manager

Cc: Members of the Ohio House Insurance Committee