



**OHIO
ASSOCIATION *for*
JUSTICE**
TRIAL LAWYERS HELPING PEOPLE

**Testimony on House Bill 75
Sam Marcellino, Esq
OAJ Workers' Compensation Section Chair
May 26, 2021**

Chair Hackett, Vice-Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Insurance Committee:

My name is Sam Marcellino. I am a Partner of Barkan Meizlish, LLP in Columbus, and I practice in the fields of labor and employment law and workers compensation. I am proud to serve as the Workers' Compensation Section Chair of the Ohio Association for Justice (OAJ). OAJ is a bipartisan, statewide organization whose mission is to protect and promote Ohioans' Seventh Amendment right. OAJ's membership includes attorneys who represent and assist injured workers with their workers' compensation claims in Ohio.

On behalf of OAJ, thank you for the opportunity to testify as a neutral party on House Bill 75. We thank the House for limiting the scope of changes to workers' compensation law.

OAJ is specifically pleased that HB 75 (As Passed by the House) revises O.R.C 4123.42 to allow injured workers to sign power of attorney to their attorney for the purposes of endorsing specific BWC checks. The current prohibition exacerbated the difficulty of safely transferring money from BWC, to the attorney, to the claimant during the pandemic. This is a welcome and necessary improvement.

While OAJ is neutral on bill as it passed the house, additional amendments to this draft would very likely cause my organization and me to change our position, for better or worse.

Chairman Hackett, thank you again for the opportunity to speak to the bill.

I am happy to take any questions.

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