

Ohio House of Representatives



State Representative Brian Lampton District 70

**HB 31 – Proponent Testimony
Ohio House Finance Committee
29 March 2023**

Thank you Chair Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and my colleagues on the House Finance Committee for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 31, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Budget. As you know, it was passed out of the Insurance Committee without objection. I wanted to highlight a few key aspects of the bill.

First, their request is only a 1.1% and 1.8% increase from the previous biennium. Second, the only revision our committee made was to amend out the name change. While we support their modernization and simplification, by bringing together the administrative cost and claim benefits, the name change was not necessary. I want to applaud their efforts in reducing the rates for public and private sector employers. They have reduced average rates paid to their lowest in 60 years and in fact, Ohio ranks 5th in lowest workers' compensation premium rates among all states, a monumental improvement from 12th place in 2020.

In Ohio, workers' compensation is exclusively provided by the BWC. They employ over 1,500 people statewide and have assets of approximately \$22 billion, making it the largest state-run workers' compensation insurance systems in the United States. Their continued work in decreasing workplace injury claims, medical costs and expanding safety and wellness programs, does not go unnoticed. I urge a concurrent yes vote.