November 19, 2025

The Honorable Jim Thomas
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chair Thomas:

Our organizations, on behalf of our members, are writing you today in opposition to portions of amendment 1215-1 that were accepted during last week's committee hearing on House Bill 338. This amendment includes language that would allow corrections officers to receive Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) without an accompanying physical injury. The adoption of a mental-only diagnosis would create a significant departure to longstanding and clear precedent in Ohio workers' compensation system law.

While we recognize the importance of protecting our corrections officers and have no opposition to the as-introduced version of the legislation, a provision as consequential as allowing mental-only injuries – for the first time in the more than 110 year history of the state's workers' compensation system – needs to be fully vetted instead of being amended into a bill that is already moving. This language is much broader than previous legislation that would allow first responders to receive PTSD coverage and allows individuals to file a claim if they simply learned of a coworker's injury. Also, Ohio allows private companies to operate prisons, so this would apply to any privately employed corrections officers.

As an alternative solution, we support using the State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund to fund these claims. This fund was established with the enactment of House Bill 308 in the 133rd Ohio General Assembly and is currently held in the Office of Budget and Management.

We respectfully ask that the House Judiciary Committee delay voting on House Bill 338 until the PTSD provision is removed.

NFIB Ohio
Ohio Manufacturer's Association
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
Ohio Business Roundtable