



February 5, 2020

Senator Bob Hackett
Chair, Ohio Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Hackett,

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 22,000 governing members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Ohio to provide our support for House Bill 81. We believe this package of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) reforms will benefit all Ohioans and continue the positive trajectory we have seen at the agency.

Specifically, we are very supportive of three pro-business reforms included in the substitute bill detailed below:

- For purposes of keeping claims open, the clock will now begin on the date of medical treatment. Currently, the time period to file for an additional allowance begins on the date of bill payment by the BWC. This unnecessarily delays the closing of a claim by months.
- Reducing the statute of limitations to file a Violation of a Specific Safety Requirement (VSSR) claim from two years to one. This change will bring the statute of limitations in line with all other claims, as changed by the legislature last general assembly.
- Provides clarity that an injured worker's wage loss must be a direct result of an impairment arising from an injury or occupational disease, and not from other non-employment related factors.

While NFIB does not advocate for removing the employer from the claims settlement process, the language has been improved by ensuring the claim is no longer in the employer's experience, and the claimant is no longer employed at the business. With this important clarification, we believe the positive parts of this bill far outweigh the potentially negative ones.

We respectfully request this committee favorably report House Bill 81 and NFIB may consider it a key vote for the 133rd General Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Weiser', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jared Weiser
NFIB
Ohio Member Benefits Program Manager