

Testimony on House Bill 75 Troy Duffy, Esq OAJ Workers' Compensation Section Chair May 11, 2021

Chair Brinkman, Vice-Chair Lampton, Ranking Member Miranda, and members of the Insurance Committee:

My name is Troy Duffy. I am a lawyer practicing primarily workers' compensation law in Ohio for Plevin and Gallucci, in the Columbus and Dayton areas. 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 Chair, Ranking Member, and House leadership for limiting the scope of changes to workers' compensation law.

OAJ is specifically pleased that Substitute HB 75 (0003-3) 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 Substitute HB 75 (0003-3), additional amendments to this draft would very likely cause my organization and me to change our position.

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

I am happy to take any questions.

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