TO: The Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania House
FROM: Gene Barr, President and CEO
DATE: Feb. 2, 2018
RE: SB 936 – Perspectives from other states

You’ve heard from Pennsylvania employers, hospitals, pharmacists, addiction treatment advocates, others in the medical community, local governments, the construction industry and over 70 local chambers of commerce who support S.B. 936 to implement a workers’ compensation prescription drug formulary. But what have we heard from other states that have adopted this policy?

“The adoption of the drug formulary is a step forward for California’s injured workers and should help address the overuse of high-risk medications such as opioids. It is expected to improve patient care and ease approval of appropriate treatment.”
- California Department of Workers’ Compensation Director George Parisotto

“Our workers comp drug formulary has been a critical part of our statewide effort to fight prescription drug and opioid overuse and abuse.”
- Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation former Director of Pharmacy John Hanna, RPh, MBA. Ohio experienced a 37 percent decrease in opioid doses in just a few years after implementing their formulary in 2011.

“The Texas workers’ compensation system has helped pave the way to addressing opioid overuse among injured employees through implementation of the closed formulary. As a result, the frequency of all opioid prescriptions was reduced by 11 percent in just one year following implementation.”
- The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers’ Compensation in a Dec. 2016 report

“Whether it’s group health, Medicare or Medi-Cal, physicians are well acquainted with formularies and how they work and it doesn’t seem to be a disruptive force in those delivery systems.”
- California Workers' Compensation Institute president Alex Swedlow.

We urge you to support S.B. 936 without amendment.