

Dec. 5, 2017

To the Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

On behalf of Pennsylvania's employers, we, the undersigned representatives of chambers of commerce from throughout the Commonwealth, urge you to support important legislation to improve Pennsylvania's workers compensation system and help address prescription drug overuse and opioid addiction among injured workers.

H.B. 18 and S.B. 936 would both implement a prescription drug formulary for workers' compensation. Formularies are standard in regular and publicly-funded health insurance to help ensure appropriate patient care, address over-prescribing of medication and premature or inappropriate prescribing of opioids. Formularies offer a flexible approach that makes treatment of typical patients more efficient, facilitates exceptions for unique cases and addresses the outlier instances of over-prescribing.

We all recognize that Pennsylvania is facing a prescription drug and opioid abuse epidemic. We seem to struggle particularly with respect to injured workers: PA ranked third in a recent 25-state study of opioid use among injured workers, measuring 78 percent higher than the median state.

Utilizing a prescription drug formulary in workers' compensation has helped mitigate prescription drug over-prescribing and addiction in many other states. For example, Ohio implemented its formulary in 2011 and has been able to reduce by half the number of workers' compensation patients considered opioid dependent – from 9,343 to 4,723. John Hanna, RPh, MBA, the former Pharmacy Director at the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation said: *"Our workers comp drug formulary has been a critical part of our statewide effort to fight prescription drug and opioid overuse and abuse."*

These bills also help ensure that Utilization Review Organizations, which resolve questions related to medical treatment, are properly certified. This guarantee will instill greater confidence in URO decisions and complements the drug formulary by ensuring that qualified experts are holding all parties accountable to properly apply the formulary.

Both of these reforms would improve outcomes for injured workers and continue the critical work of lawmakers and the Wolf Administration to combat the prescription drug and opioid epidemic.

We urge you to support these bills. Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.




Gene Barr
President and CEO
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry



Robert Wonderling
President and CEO
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia



Matt Smith
President
The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce



Vince Matteo
President and CEO
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce



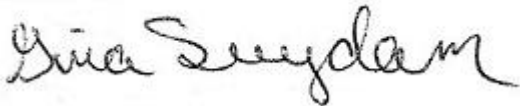
Tony Iannelli
President and CEO
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce



Dave Black
President and CEO
Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC



Jeff Kotula
President
Washington County Chamber of Commerce



Gina Severcool Suydam
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Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce



David Sciamanna
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Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce



Muriel Nuttall
Executive Director
Fayette County Chamber of Commerce



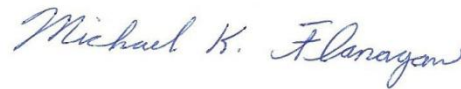
Michelle Mikitish
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Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce



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President and CEO
The Main Line Chamber of Commerce



Jack Manning
President and Executive Director
Beaver County Chamber of Commerce



Michael Flanagan
President and CEO
Clinton County Economic Partnership



Guy Ciarrocchi
President and CEO
Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry



Randy Peers
President and CEO
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance



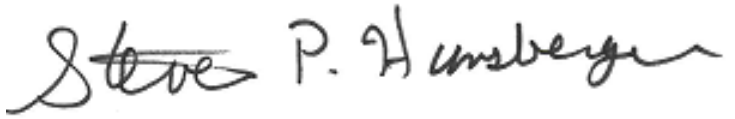
Chad Amond
President and CEO
Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce



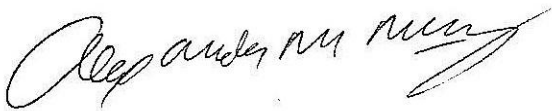
Robert Carl
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Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce



Kevin Schreiber
President and CEO
York County Economic Alliance



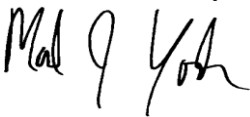
Steven Hunsberger
Executive Director
Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce



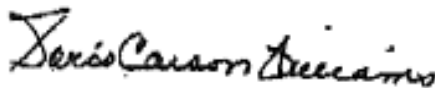
Alex McCoy
CEO
Lawrence County Regional Chamber of Commerce



Barbara Chaffee
President and CEO
Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership



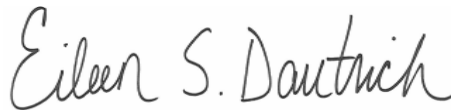
Mark Yoder
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Doris Carson Williams
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Mike Artim
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Eileen Dautrich
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TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce



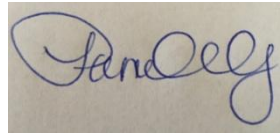
Karen Groh
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Brandon McFadden
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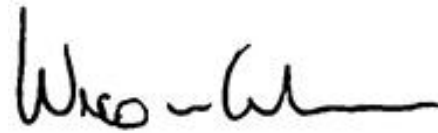
Joe Hurd
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Pamela Kelly
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Raymond Santillo

Raymond Santillo
Executive Director
Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce



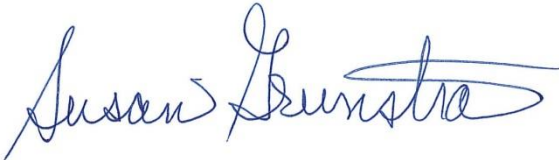
Wico Van Genderen
Chief Executive Officer
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Thomas Baldrige
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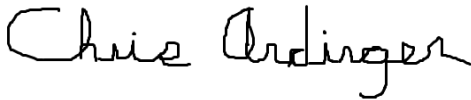
Bill Leandri
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Peters Township Chamber of Commerce



Cheryl Kuhn
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Chris Ardinger
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Sean Logan
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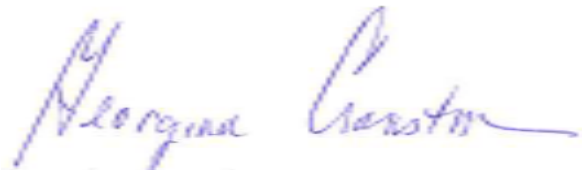
Debra Keefer
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George Book
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Georgina Cranston
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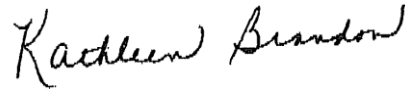
Jeff Ott
1st Vice President
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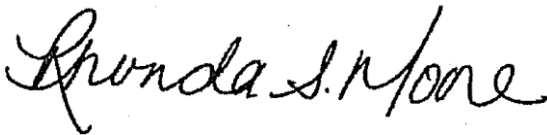
Lynda Pozzuto
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Alle Kiski Strong Chamber



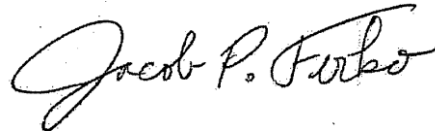
Elizabeth Graver
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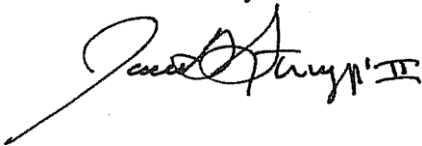
Kathy Brandon
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Rhonda Moore
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James Struzzi
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Vern Squire
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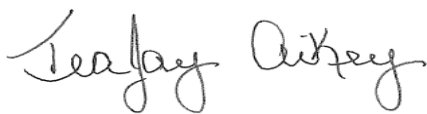
Gary Laird
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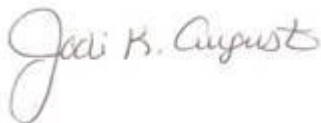
Allen Martello
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Gary Hoover
Executive Director
Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce



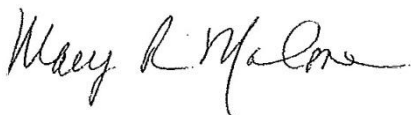
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Central PA Chamber of Commerce



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Yvonne Martin
President and CEO
Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce



Mary Malone
President
Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce



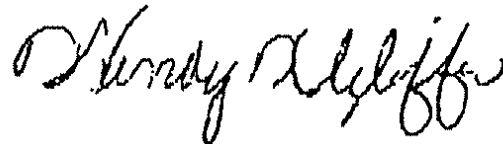
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Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce



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Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce



James Decker
President and CEO
Warren County Chamber of Business & Industry



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Laurie Kerkering
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