



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate Labor and Industry Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: September 28, 2021

RE: Hold off considering S.B. 775

I write on behalf of the PA Chamber to urge you to oppose S.B. 775, as currently drafted, which would dramatically expand workers' compensation eligibility for a number of categories of public employees. We understand a compromise approach has been suggested and we would encourage the Committee to hold off consideration of the bill to allow discussions to continue.

S.B. 775 would expand workers' compensation eligibility related to mental health care. Current law has attempted to balance compensability for mental health – covering conditions that manifest following an injury or an incident outside the normal scope of employment. S.B. 775 would amend the law to include coverage following situations that occur within the normal scope of employment.

Treatment for mental health conditions under any circumstance is certainly critically important and we understand health insurance for law enforcement and emergency responders covers this type of care. However, we do not believe S.B. 775 strikes the right balance – potential costs on municipalities and taxpayers are massive; and unlike current practice in which treatment is covered by regular health insurance, under workers' compensation a significant portion of increased costs would flow directly from taxpayers to plaintiffs' attorneys.

Unless a compromise is adopted, we urge you to oppose this bill. Please contact Alex Halper at [ahalper@pachamber.org](mailto:ahalper@pachamber.org) or 717-720-5471 with any questions or to discuss.