



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Health Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: November 16, 2021

RE: **Oppose H.B. 2013 – Prohibiting workplace health and safety policies**

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The PA Chamber urges you to oppose H.B. 2013, a constitutional amendment that would have the effect of prohibiting employers from enforcing many standard and critically important workplace health and safety policies. The committee is scheduled to consider the bill today.

H.B. 2013 would add to the state constitution: “The right of an individual to refuse any medical procedure, treatment, injection, vaccine or prophylactic may not be questioned or interfered with in any manner.” If enacted, this proposal would severely restrict employers’ ability to maintain workplaces that protect the health and safety of employees and customers. The language is simply too broad and ambiguous and could be construed to prohibit:

- Hospitals and nursing homes from requiring staff to wear personal protective equipment;
- Companies in safety-sensitive industries like construction and manufacturing from testing employees for drugs or alcohol;
- Firefighters or employees working with hazardous substances from being required to wear a mask;
- Workers alleging a workplace injury from being directed to a standard medical evaluation;
- Any employer from requiring a covid test under any circumstances.

While resistance to vaccine mandates may have prompted this proposal, the potential impact goes much further and could compromise workplace safety and disrupt employer operations. This is yet another example of big government overreach that will harm citizens and make Pennsylvania less attractive to business.

We urge you to oppose this bill. Please contact Alex Halper at [ahalper@pachamber.org](mailto:ahalper@pachamber.org) or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.