



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: November 8, 2021

RE: **Oppose S.B. 471 workplace anti-vaccination bill**

The PA Chamber urges you to oppose S.B. 471, which would prohibit employers from enforcing lawful or even mandatory vaccination requirements. The committee is scheduled to consider the bill today.

Pennsylvania employers have faced significant challenges during the course of the pandemic, many the result of, or made worse by, misguided public policy: unclear mandates, state and federal law inconsistencies, threat of unfair lawsuits, etc. Perhaps most disheartening has been the relentless message to employers that government does not trust them and government knows best how they ought to manage their workplace.

S.B. 471 unfortunately encompasses and perpetuates these themes. Employers will be forced to scrap policies adopted, in some cases for decades, to protect their people and avoid costly workplace disruptions or closures. Employers may additionally find themselves caught between conflicting federal and state laws, creating confusion and exposure to potential penalties and lawsuits.

This bill sends the wrong messages: hostility to employers desperate for relief; validating unfounded rejection of public health measures; and a lack of commitment to encouraging Pennsylvania's economic recovery.

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