



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, Subcommittee on Security & Emergency Response  
FROM: Alex Halper, VP, Government Affairs  
DATE: October 17, 2023  
RE: Concerns with H.B 1632 – Workers’ Compensation Expansion

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I write on behalf of the PA Chamber to raise concerns with H.B. 1632, which is scheduled for Subcommittee consideration today. This bill represents a significant expansion to the workers’ compensation program and we urge lawmakers to solicit input and work towards compromise.

This legislation relates to workers compensation coverage for mental healthcare. Current law has attempted to strike the right balance: focusing on mental health conditions that manifest following an injury or following an incident that occurs outside the normal scope of employment.

H.B. 1632 proposes to significantly expand coverage for mental health conditions by extending to conditions that manifest following *normal* work conditions. Moreover, though we understand the bill is intended to focus on public law enforcement and emergency response personnel, the bill as currently drafted may cover a broader range of the workforce, including in the private sector.

To be sure, mental health treatment under any circumstance is critically important and we understand regular health insurance for law enforcement and emergency responders covers mental healthcare. However, we do not believe H.B. 1632 currently strikes the right balance – potential costs on municipalities and taxpayers are substantial; and unlike current practice in which treatment is covered by regular health insurance, under workers’ compensation, a portion of those increased costs would flow to plaintiffs’ attorneys instead of care for workers.

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