



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House of Representatives  
FROM: Alex Halper, SVP, Government Affairs  
DATE: May 7, 2024  
RE: H.B. 1632 workers compensation expansion – continue working towards compromise

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We urge lawmakers to hold off considering H.B. 1632 and continue working with stakeholders to find a compromise. We understand the House may consider the bill today.

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 outside the normal scope of the position.

H.B. 1632 proposes a fundamental shift to covering mental health treatment under works comp by extending to conditions that manifest following *normal* work conditions for certain categories of public employees.

Mental health treatment under any circumstance is critically important and we understand regular health insurance for law enforcement and emergency responders covers mental healthcare. Shifting coverage to workers' comp, however, could significantly increase costs on taxpayers, a portion of which would flow to plaintiffs' attorneys instead of care for workers.

We thank the bill sponsor for agreeing to several suggestions, including ensuring the bill is focused on the intended categories of employees and that qualified healthcare professionals are treating patients. We urge lawmakers to consider additional safeguards to help ensure this new structure is protected from misuse by those who would seek to take advantage of patients, and the law, for their benefit.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania's workers' compensation history is filled with such incidents, from [“physicians with questionable practices”](#) being “repeatedly recruited,” to a firm reportedly teaming up with a “secretive network of doctors that prescribes unproven and exorbitantly priced pain creams to injured workers — some creams costing more than \$4,000 per tube” [as one article summarized](#).

Lawmakers can pursue legislation that both achieves the intended goal of supporting first responders and protects the law from misuse. We remain hopeful that a compromise may be reached and urge the House to hold off consideration and allow that work to continue.

Please contact Alex Halper at [ahalper@pachamber.org](mailto:ahalper@pachamber.org) or 717-720-5471 with any questions or to discuss.