



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate
FROM: Megan Martin, Vice President & General Counsel
DATE: July 3, 2024
RE: **Amend H.B. 1466, P.N. 1650 – Anti-SLAPP Legislation**

On behalf of the PA Chamber, I write to request the Senate amend H.B. 1466, which could be considered today. The underlying bill would provide for a cause of action on protected public expression and for immunity for protected public expression.

As you know, we represent approximately 10,000 businesses of all sizes and sectors across the Commonwealth. We are their voice, and we would like to provide our input on H.B. 1466.

House Bill 1466 has generated concerns from employers in several respects. The bill creates a new cause of action (§8320.1) that seems redundant with the bill's pretrial motion provision (§8340.16). Moreover, the bill in its current form could be construed retroactively, rather than only applying to these newly created causes of action that are filed after the effective date of the legislation. Finally, we would note the business community has also advocated for legal reform *vis a vis* frivolous lawsuits and we appreciate members of the Senate who have supported these legislative initiatives. We look forward to continuing those conversations that will result in meaningful legislative changes addressing this issue of great importance to the employers of Pennsylvania.

All that said, I urge the Senate to amend House Bill 1466 with language that would explicitly provide the cause of action section of the bill (§8320.1) does not apply retroactively. This amendment would address some of the concerns of the employer community, in that relief under the bill would be prospective only.

Please contact Megan Martin at mmartin@pachamber.org or 717-343-4171 with questions or to discuss.