



June 22, 2017

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Larry Obhof
President, Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Rosenberger and President Obhof:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to a provision included in the Ohio Senate omnibus amendment (SC5425) to Substitute House Bill 49 allowing the Office of Budget and Management to transfer up to 2% of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission budgets (BWC & IC) to the General Revenue Fund (GRF). This language sets an extremely dangerous precedent of allowing the state to "raid" the budgets of these exclusively employer-funded agencies.

Unlike the main operating budget, appropriations for the BWC and IC operations are funded entirely by employer premiums and assessments. This amendment is asking Ohio's employers to subsidize all state operations in the form of their BWC premium payments.

In addition, this bad precedent would likely lead to future rate-making decisions that are beyond the actuarial needs of the Ohio BWC and IC, in order to balance upcoming operating budgets.

We are very concerned this language gives this and future administrations the go-ahead to siphon funds when budget shortfalls occur. There could also be a legal issue with directing funds to the GRF that are constitutionally set for the treatment of injured workers and promotion of safer workplaces.

Given these factors, we respectfully ask you to remove the language that permits the transfer of BWC and IC funds to the GRF from Substitute House Bill 49. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger R. Geiger
Vice President, Executive Director
NFIB/Ohio

Andrew E. Doehrel
President & CEO
Ohio Chamber of Commerce



Gordon M. Gough
President & CEO
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants



Eric Burkland
President
Ohio Manufacturers' Association

cc: The Honorable Ryan Smith
The Honorable Scott Ryan
The Honorable Jack Cera
The Honorable Scott Oelslager
The Honorable Gayle Manning
The Honorable Michael Skindell
Merle Madrid, Director of Legislative Affairs, Ohio Governor John Kasich