

June 29, 2017

The Honorable John R. Kasich  
Governor, the State of Ohio  
77 South High Street, 30th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposal included in Section 512.12 of recently passed Amended Substitute House Bill 49 allowing the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) to transfer up to 2% of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) and Industrial Commission (IC) budgets to the General Revenue Fund (GRF). This proposal sets a dangerous precedent of granting the State authority to access monies of these exclusively employer-funded agencies.

As you are aware, unlike the main operating budget, appropriations for the BWC and IC operations are funded entirely by employer premiums and assessments. This proposal is asking Ohio's employers to subsidize all state operations in the form of their BWC premiums.

We are very concerned that this language sets a dangerous precedent authorizing the siphoning of funds when budget shortfalls occur. There could also be a legal issue with directing funds to the GRF that are constitutionally reserved for the treatment of injured workers and the promotion of safer workplaces.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your line item veto of the provision contained in Amended Substitute House Bill 49 that would permit the transfer of BWC and IC funds to the GRF. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



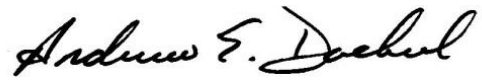
Gordon M. Gough  
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Ohio Council of Retail Merchants



Eric Burkland  
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