

Nov. 13, 2017

To the Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

On behalf of Pennsylvania's employers, we, the undersigned representatives of chambers of commerce from throughout the Commonwealth, urge you to support important legislation to improve Pennsylvania's workers compensation system and help address prescription drug overuse and opioid addiction among injured workers.

H.B. 18 and S.B. 936 would both implement a prescription drug formulary for workers' compensation. Formularies are standard in regular and publicly-funded health insurance to help ensure appropriate patient care, address over-prescribing of medication and premature or inappropriate prescribing of opioids. Formularies offer a flexible approach that makes treatment of typical patients more efficient, facilitates exceptions for unique cases and addresses the outlier instances of over-prescribing.

We all recognize that Pennsylvania is facing a prescription drug and opioid abuse epidemic. We seem to struggle particularly with respect to injured workers: PA ranked third in a recent 25-state study of opioid use among injured workers, measuring 78 percent higher than the median state.

Utilizing a prescription drug formulary in workers' compensation has helped mitigate prescription drug over-prescribing and addiction in many other states. For example, Ohio implemented its formulary in 2011 and has been able to reduce by half the number of workers' compensation patients considered opioid dependent – from 9,343 to 4,723. John Hanna, RPh, MBA, the former Pharmacy Director at the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation said: *"Our workers comp drug formulary has been a critical part of our statewide effort to fight prescription drug and opioid overuse and abuse."*

These bills also help ensure that Utilization Review Organizations, which resolve questions related to medical treatment, are properly certified. This guarantee will instill greater confidence in URO decisions and complements the drug formulary by ensuring that qualified experts are holding all parties accountable to properly apply the formulary.

Both of these reforms would improve outcomes for injured workers and continue the critical work of lawmakers and the Wolf Administration to combat the prescription drug and opioid epidemic.

We urge you to support these bills. Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.



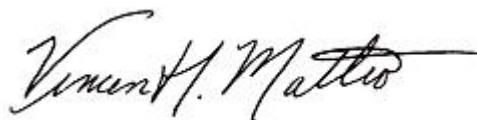
Gene Barr  
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Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry



Robert Wonderling  
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The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia



Matt Smith  
President  
The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce



Vince Matteo  
President and CEO  
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce



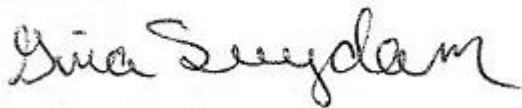
Tony Iannelli  
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Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce



Dave Black  
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Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC



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Gina Severcool Suydam  
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Muriel Nuttall  
Executive Director  
Fayette County Chamber of Commerce



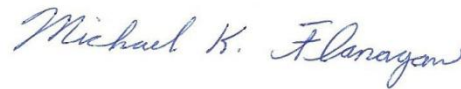
Michelle Mikitish  
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Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce



Bernard Dagenais  
President and CEO  
The Main Line Chamber of Commerce



Jack Manning  
President and Executive Director  
Beaver County Chamber of Commerce



Michael Flanagan  
President and CEO  
Clinton County Economic Partnership



Guy Ciarrocchi  
President and CEO  
Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry



Randy Peers  
President and CEO  
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance



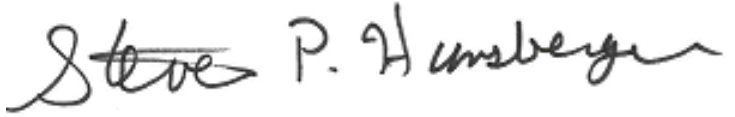
Chad Amond  
President and CEO  
Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce



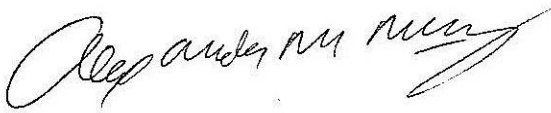
Robert Carl  
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Kevin Schreiber  
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York County Economic Alliance



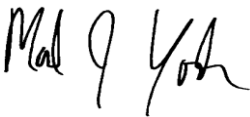
Steven Hunsberger  
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Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce



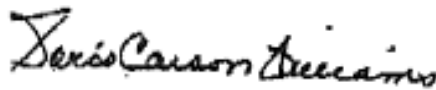
Alex McCoy  
CEO  
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Barbara Chaffee  
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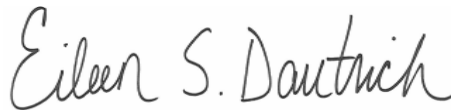
Mark Yoder  
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Mike Artim  
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Eileen Dautrich  
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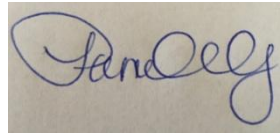
Karen Groh  
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Brandon McFadden  
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Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce



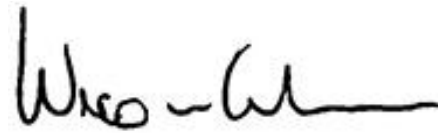
Joe Hurd  
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Pamela Kelly  
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*Raymond Santillo*

Raymond Santillo  
Executive Director  
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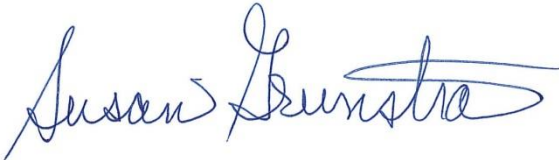
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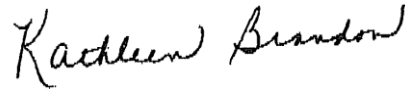
Jeff Ott  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
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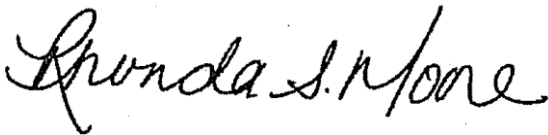
Lynda Pozzuto  
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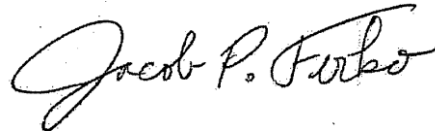
Elizabeth Graver  
Executive Director  
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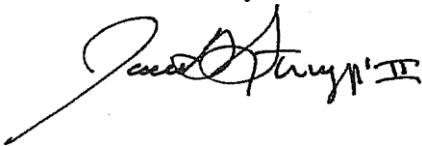
Kathy Brandon  
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Gary Laird  
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Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce





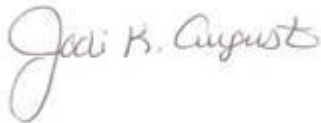
Allen Martello  
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Gary Hoover  
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Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce



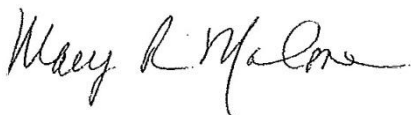
Tea Jay Aikey  
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Jodi August  
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Yvonne Martin  
President and CEO  
Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce



Mary Malone  
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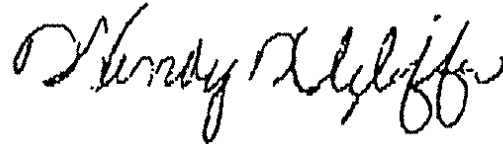
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Warren County Chamber of Business & Industry



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