



BACKGROUND

Ohio is one of only four states that still have a state-controlled Workers Compensation Program. Other states have reformed or are looking at reforming their programs to provide cost savings to businesses and the state government alike.

- As work environments become safer, the number of workers compensation claims continues to decline. At the same time, the cost per claim has continued to rise along with the cost of health care in general, making costs to businesses substantial. Along with taxes, workers compensation is something every business owner must handle.
- All of Ohio's neighboring states, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, allow businesses to purchase workers compensation through private insurers, giving them a competitive advantage over Ohio in attracting businesses.
- The Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation underwent a comprehensive review in 2009 at the request of the Ohio General Assembly, which found many of the Bureau's programs to be overly complex and ineffective.
- State-controlled Workers Compensation Programs are funded by what are essentially taxes on businesses.

A WAY FORWARD

As the economy continues to recover, Ohio needs to find new ways to become more competitive with other states by becoming more attractive to businesses. It is time to start a discussion and open the path to business-friendly workers compensation reform.

- Encourage a conversation between the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation and Ohio businesses to explore opportunities to make our Workers Compensation Program more competitive.
- Create a coalition of stakeholders who work together to create a system that supports Ohio's businesses, organizations, and employees.
- Review the reforms other states have adopted and form a partnership between government and businesses.
- Identify cost savings that could reduce state budget deficits, as well as help businesses save money.