



TO: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Sam Denisco, Vice President, Government Affairs

DATE: Dec. 5, 2011

RE: HB 1976 – Venue Reform

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On behalf of its thousands of statewide member businesses of all sizes and crossing all industry sectors, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is writing you to express our **support** of HB 1976, which is scheduled to be considered today by the House Judiciary Committee.

This bill seeks to change the long standing practice of “forum shopping” – a tactic used by some personal injury lawyers of filing their cases in pro-plaintiff jurisdictions that have little or no relation to the defendant or the act giving rise to the cause of action.

HB 1976 seeks to bring fairness and certainty to our civil justice system by requiring plaintiffs to file their actions alleging a personal injury only in jurisdictions where the injury occurred, the plaintiff resides or the defendant is headquartered. This General Assembly enacted similar Venue Reform in 2002 (Act 127) that applies to medical malpractice cases. Since then, the number of medical malpractice cases has dramatically declined – a good portion of this is attributable to venue reform. We ask that the venue changes given to the medical community be more broadly applied and extended to all actions brought to recover for a death or injury to a person.

Again, the PA Chamber asks for your support of HB 1976 in committee. If you have any questions, please contact me at [sdenisco@pachamber.org](mailto:sdenisco@pachamber.org) or 717-645-3483.