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Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Honorable J.B. Pritzker  
Governor of Illinois  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor J.B. Pritzker,

The Illinois Chamber opposes House Bill 219 and respectfully requests a veto. By allowing punitive damages in wrongful death actions, House Bill 219 overturns over 150 years of legal precedent. It further tilts the playing field in favor of the plaintiff's bar by allowing punitive judgments which may legally be ten times the cost of judgments under current law.

The Chamber is not alone in our opposition to this bill. We were joined by more than two dozen opponents representing every industry in Illinois including: healthcare, insurance, small business, agriculture, manufacturing, trucking, and retail.

Signing this bill would further harm Illinois' reputation as a place with a judicial system unfavorable to a healthy business climate. Sadly, it would make businesses take a second look at expanding or investing in Illinois and give the naysayers one more talking point to disparage our state. Accordingly, we hope you consider the harmful consequences of this bill and issue a veto.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Staats". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keith" and last name "Staats" clearly legible.

Keith Staats  
Interim President and CEO  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce