

## **Wilmington Chamber Partners with First Benefits Insurance to Offer Workers' Comp Program to Members**

**Raleigh, N.C.** (June 4, 2020) – Wilmington joins the growing list of North Carolina Chambers of Commerce that partner with First Benefits Insurance Mutual, Inc. (First Benefits) to offer a workers' compensation program as a valued member service.

First Benefits Insurance Mutual, Inc. is a North Carolina-based insurance company providing workers' compensation coverage to retailers, wholesalers and other small businesses in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. First Benefits is the 14th largest workers' comp insurance carrier in North Carolina with over 2,200 insured businesses.

An association-based workers' comp carrier, First Benefits earned a Financial Stability Rating of *A, Exceptional*, from Demotech, Inc. and has been providing quality service to chamber members for over 25 years. Wilmington becomes one of more than 70 chambers to join forces with First Benefits to bring quality workers' compensation insurance at a competitive price to North Carolina businesses.

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce provides opportunities for the business community to connect and grow, takes a stand on issues on the local, state, and national level, to make Wilmington a stronger business community, provides emerging leaders opportunities for professional development and collaborates with city and county-wide organizations to advocate for issues for the greater good.

"We believe this new partnership between the Wilmington Chamber and First Benefits will be a workers' comp partnership that will be a valued benefit for our members. It will provide them access to First Benefits' competitive rates, skilled underwriting, efficient claims management and personalized service with a local, feel." said Natalie English, Wilmington Chamber President and CEO.

"For over 25 years, First Benefits has been recognized for our ability to deliver superior workers' comp coverage with a personal touch. Our policy services team members and claims adjusters are accessible, easy to work with, and our loss control department will go above and beyond to help

policyholders mitigate injuries." said Todd Baitsholts, First Benefits Executive VP and CFO. "We are privileged to have the opportunity to provide our services to the members of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and look forward to meeting their workers' comp needs."

North Carolina law requires businesses with three or more employees to provide workers' comp insurance.

For more information on this new program through the Wilmington Chamber, contact Wes Hale at (888) 393-2667 or [whale@firstbenefits.org](mailto:whale@firstbenefits.org).

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**About Wilmington Chamber of Commerce:**

The mission of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is to drive economic growth through active engagement and advocacy for our business community. We take a stand on issues on the local, state, and national level to make Wilmington a stronger business community. We bring business and community leaders together toward the common goal of economic growth as well as providing emerging leaders opportunities for professional development. We provide opportunities for the business community to connect and grow. We unite over 1,000 member businesses to accomplish much more than one person or business could achieve independently.

**About First Benefits Insurance Mutual, Inc.:**

Over 25 years ago, the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association created a workers' compensation company and made it available exclusively to their members. Initially a self-insured fund, the company's reputation grew based on outstanding service and competitive rates. Additional associations and chambers of commerce began to make it available as a member benefit for their organizations. In 2008, the fund reformed as a mutual insurance company. First Benefits Insurance Mutual, Inc. emerged and is an outstanding, competitive workers' compensation benefit for participating organizations and their members and has expanded beyond North Carolina to South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia.