

RESOLUTION 22-19
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES RESOLUTION – MICHIGAN WORKS!
OPPOSING WAGNER-PEYSER RULE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the US Department of Labor (USDOL) has published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing (Docket No. ETA–2022–0003) which would require States, with no exceptions, to use State merit staff to provide Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES) services, and,

WHEREAS, the proposal would reverse current federal policy that allows States maximum flexibility in staffing to provide ES services, and,

WHEREAS, a 1998 settlement agreement (*Michigan v Herman*) has allowed the State of Michigan to use local merit staff employees to deliver ES services through the local network of Michigan Works! Agencies to over 86,000 job seekers in 2021, and,

WHEREAS, our primary concern is the negative impacts of this proposal to Michiganders and the primary customers of the workforce development system – both job seekers and employers, and,

WHEREAS, a key benefit to greater staffing flexibility is strong local strategic relationships with businesses, higher education, nonprofits, childcare, elementary and secondary education, adult education providers, and other partners which allows for more efficient customer service to connect job seekers with in-demand jobs and training opportunities and facilitates a pipeline for those students to local employers, and,

WHEREAS, The Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board, comprised of business, labor and community leaders, is currently responsible for the effective and efficient delivery of five Michigan Works American Job Centers in Macomb and St. Clair Counties using over 40 ES local staff , and this rule would take away local control of Employment Services, and

WHEREAS, with this required staffing model, staff and service reductions are inevitable as services currently provided by over 400 Michigan Works! staff statewide would be reduced to approximately 100 State of Michigan staff, resulting in significantly longer wait times for job seekers and delays in services for the 32,000 businesses served annually, and,

WHEREAS, this change would risk potential loss of several of the 99 full and satellite Michigan Works! American Job Centers across the state, and would negatively impact our constituents by decreased assistance filling job openings, reduction and elimination of job fairs, cutting of industry-led collaboratives, and decreased or no access to job training programs, and,

WHEREAS, limiting ES staffing to State staff, would eliminate the advantage of the streamlined current staffing model in Michigan which leverages other program funding from WIOA Title II Adult Education, SNAP, TANF, TAA, and others to supplement the Wagner-Peyser state allocation, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners, hereby urges the USDOL to abandon this proposed rule change, and urges Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Congressional Delegation to support local control by the Workforce Development Boards and oppose this rule and notify the USDOL Secretary that it would have an adverse impact on the Michigan "One Stop" workforce development system,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the U.S. Employment and Training Administration/U.S. Department of Labor, Governor Whitmer, our U.S. Legislators and State Legislators and any other interested parties.

DATED: June 16, 2022

Reviewed and Approved by:



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