



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Gogebic County

200 N. Moore St.

Bessemer, Michigan 49911

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED WAGNER-PEYSER ACT RULE CHANGE – RESOLUTION #2022- 8

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, current federal policy 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, 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, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance Workforce Development Board, comprised of business, labor and community leaders, is currently responsible for the effective and efficient delivery of six Michigan Works American Job Centers in Wayne County using 52 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 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,

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Dan Siirila	Tom Laabs	Jim Byrns Vice Chair	Jim Lorenson Chair	Joe Bonovetz	Bob Orlich	George Peterson III

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 County of Gogebic, 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.

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NAYS:

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ABSENT:

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JAMES A. LORENSON

Chairman

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 4

District 5

District 6

District 7

Dan Siirila

Tom Laabs

Jim Byrns
Vice Chair

Jim Lorensen
Chair

Joe Bonovetz

Bob Orlich

George Peterson III

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) SS

COUNTY OF GOGEBIC)

I, Ramona L. Collins, Clerk of the County of Gogebic, and the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting on June 22, 2022.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County of Gogebic, on this 23rd day of June, 2022 at Bessemer, Michigan.



Ramona L. Collins



District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
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11-11-11