



CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION # 22-13

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED WAGNER-PEYSER ACT 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 Services (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 impact 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 relationship 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 reduction 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,

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 programs 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 Chippewa, 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 Board 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.

Moved: Commissioner McLean

Supported: Commissioner Postula

Carried: Commissioners Martin, Shackleton, Postula and McLean

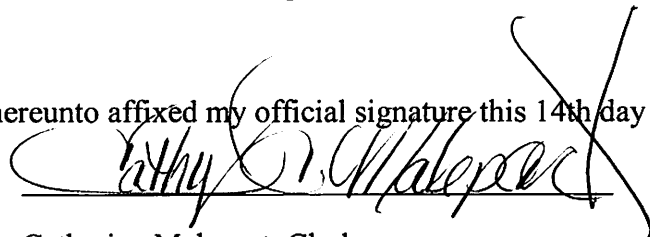
Absent: Commissioner Savoie

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the County of CHIPPEWA, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of July, 2022, the original of which resolution is on file in my office. I further certify that the meeting was held and the minutes therefore were filed in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 14th day of
July, 2021.



Catherine Maleport, Clerk
County of Chippewa