



**Legislative Committee**

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Phone Conference ID: 888 501 251#

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Members:** Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jay Dunwell, Jeran Culina, Milinda Ysasi, Marcus Keech

**Charge:** *The Legislative Committee will educate legislators representing the 7-county region on workforce development programs and their impact on the local economy. The group will advocate for resources and good will with state and federal legislators. The committee's role is **Connections** and **Advocacy**.*

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Call to Order  |                         |
| 2. Approval of January 30, 2024 Minutes                                     | <b>Action Required</b>  |
| 3. Nomination of Nate Henschel, Community Affairs Manager, Consumers Energy | <b>Action Required</b>  |
| 4. Stronger Workforce for America Act and Trade Adjustment Assistance       | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 5. MWA 2024 State Legislative Priorities                                    | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 6. Michigan Works! Association (MWA) Legislative Day Recap                  | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 7. National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum Recap              | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 8. Legislative Visits/Tours   | <b>Information Item</b> |
| 9. Updates from Members   | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 10. Other Business  |                         |
| a. National Skills Coalition Summit (May 13-15, 2024) Washington, D.C.      | <b>Information Item</b> |

**Next Scheduled Legislative Committee Meetings:**

**July 16, 2024**

**October 15, 2024**

**November 12 or 19, 2024-TBD**

**Legislative Committee**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 234 210 738 589 Passcode: aUj8Gh

Or call in (audio only) [+1 616-803-9815,,868901968#](#)

Phone Conference ID: 868 901 968#

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Members:** Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jay Dunwell, Jeran Culina, Marcus Keech, Milinda Ysasi

**Present:** Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jacob Maas, Angie Barksdale, Janette Monroe

**Charge:** *The Legislative Committee will educate legislators representing the 7-county region on workforce development programs and their impact on the local economy. The group will advocate for resources and good will with state and federal legislators. The committee's role is **Connections and Advocacy**.*

1. Welcome and call to order by Chairperson, Jim Fisher at 10:01 a.m.  
Jim requested introductions from those in attendance.
2. Approval of October 17, 2023 Minutes **Action Required**  
  
**Motion – Mark Bergsma**  
**Second – Nora Balgoyen**  
**Item Approved by Vote – Motion carried.**
3. Governor Whitmer 2024 State of the State Address (January 24, 2024) **Discussion Item**  
Jacob Maas, Chief Executive Officer requested discussion on the State of the State address that took place on January 24, 2024. Members discussed various topics highlighted in her speech. meeting schedule provided in the packet. Discussion took place on that if adjustments are needed throughout the year, those will be made in advance.
4. Michigan Works! Association (MWA) Legislative Day (March 13, 2024) **Discussion Item**  
Jacob Maas reviewed that every year the MWA hosts a legislative day in Lansing, MI and this it is scheduled to take place on March 13, 2024. Jacob reported there is approximately 27 legislators for the WMW region. Staff plan to conduct legislator visits between two consecutive days. Jim Fisher, Mark Bergsma, Jeran Culina and Marcus Keech are planning to join the day event.
5. National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum (March 23-26, 2024) **Discussion Item**  
Jacob Maas reported that the NAWB Forum is scheduled to take place March 23-26 in Washington, D.C. Staff are still awaiting session proposal responses and working out itineraries. Jim Fisher reported that he is interested in attending.
6. Legislative Visits/ Tours **Discussion Item**  
Discussion took place on past, present and future legislative visits. Staff are currently working on scheduling a

couple more visits/tours over the next several months.

7. Update from Members

**Discussion Item**

Jacob Maas provided some additional information on Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Wagner-Peyser (WP).

Jeran Culina provided insight on policies, bills, and workforce developments at the national level.

Angie Barksdale reported that she is attending the National Skill Coalition (NSC) Skills in the States convening in November, with a small delegation from Michigan.

8. Other Business – None.

9. Adjournment at 11:29 a.m. by Jim Fisher. Next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2024.

Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

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12331 James St, Suite 130  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Legislative Committee

**FROM:** Jacob Maas, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** April 16, 2024

**RE:** Nomination of Legislative Committee Member: Nate Henschel

**Member Nomination**

Nate Henschel, Community Affairs Manager with Consumers Energy, was recently appointed to the WDB in February 2024. Nate previously served on the Legislative Committee and has indicated an interest in re-joining the committee under his current role.

The current roster is as follows:

Jim Fisher, Second Act: Committee Chairperson/WDB Member  
Nora Balgoyen, ITC Holdings: WDB Member  
Mark Bergsma, BHS Insurance: WDB Chairperson  
Jay Dunwell, Wolverine Coil Spring: WDB Member  
Jeran Culina, BLU  
Marcus Keech, The Grand Rapids Chamber  
Milinda Ysasi, Grow

**Requested Action**

Approval to support the nomination of Nate Henschel to serve as member of the Legislative Subcommittee. Staff will request formal appointment from the Executive Committee of the WDB in May.



# ALERT: Proposed Changes Won't Make America's Workforce Stronger

While America's workforce system needs modernizing, provisions within the current "A Stronger Workforce for America Act" bill package could impact the effectiveness and flexibility of our local workforce development efforts in Michigan. The main areas of concern include:

## 50% Training Requirement:

**The problem:** The bill would mandate local workforce development boards to allocate 50% of their funding for training which presents a significant challenge.

**Unintended consequences:** This requirement could limit our network's ability to remain responsive to the rapidly changing needs of local employers. The lack of a clear definition of what constitutes 'training' under this mandate could lead to ambiguity and inconsistency in program implementation.

## Critical Industries Fund:

**The problem:** The proposal to increase the Governor's set-aside fund by 10% to establish a "critical industries fund" raises concerns about the potential reduction of resources available to local workforce development systems.

**Unintended Consequences:** This shift in funding risks duplicating services that are already being effectively delivered at the local level. Funding must remain adequate to support the unique workforce needs of local job seekers and employers.

## Workforce Development Areas Redesignation:

**The problem:** The Act proposes a redesignation of local workforce development areas, which is a serious concern for our network.

**Unintended Consequences:** This move could diminish local accountability and stifle innovation, which are cornerstones of a demand-driven workforce system. The voice and needs of the business community must remain at the forefront of workforce development strategies. Local expertise and engagement are key to creating effective, employer-responsive programs.





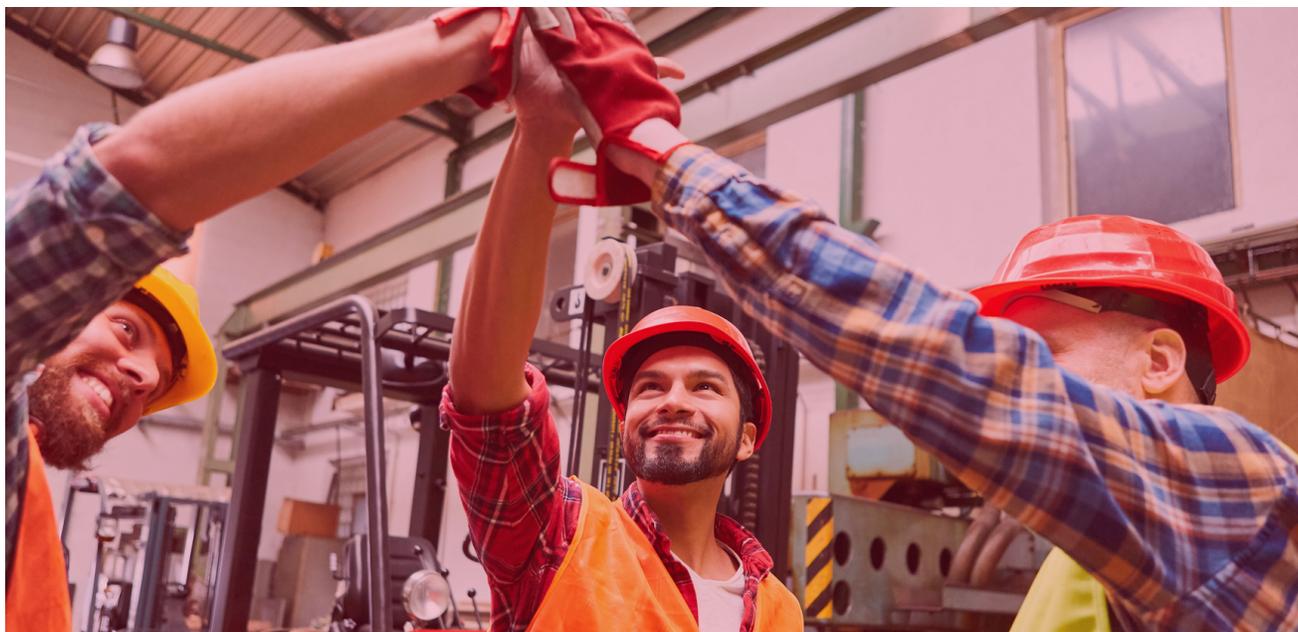
# Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Reauthorization

## Action:

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for the reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

## Overview:

Since 1974, the TAA program has provided training, income support, employment and case management services, job search and relocation allowances to eligible worker groups whose job losses or wage reductions are a result of global trade and offshoring. While funding for TAA was temporarily extended for an additional year by an omnibus package in early 2023, Congress has yet to issue a full reauthorization of the program to ensure nearly 100,000 workers nationwide will continue receiving support through the program annually. In Fiscal Year 2021, more than 4,200 workers in Michigan were covered by TAA, with 78 percent of impacted workers finding new jobs as a result of the benefits under the program. Michigan received the third-highest number of workers certified under TAA in FY 2021, the last full year the program was authorized.





# 2024 State Legislative Priorities



## Going PRO Talent Fund

### Action

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for a \$20 million increase in ongoing funding beginning in FY25 to meet the growing demand for this program.

### Overview

The Going PRO Talent Fund provides grants to employers to assist with training, developing and retaining current and newly hired employees. Since 2014, more than 6,000 businesses have received grants to help train more than 175,000 workers, resulting in an average 18 percent increase in post-training wages. Each year, demand for the program outpaces available funding. During both funding cycles in FY23, more than \$108 million in training grants were requested by businesses across the state, nearly double the amount of available funding. The lack of available funds results in a loss of potential training, hiring, and increased earning opportunities for Michigan workers.



## MI Skills Fund

### Action

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for \$10 million for the MI Skills Fund to support short-term training opportunities and credentials for high-demand occupations.

### Overview

The MI Skills Fund helps fund the cost of training for individuals pursuing industry-recognized credentials, certificates, and skills in high-demand fields. The inclusion of this program will allow businesses, education providers, and Michigan Works! agencies to partner in order to provide short-term training and upskilling opportunities to Michigan residents, while focusing on immediate labor-market needs not currently addressed by existing programs. In accessing this funding through local Michigan Works! agencies, individuals may also receive additional support for barrier removal services, career coaching, and job matching with employers.



## Youth Career Exploration

### Action

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for \$10 million in funding to enhance and expand youth career exploration and awareness activities across the state.

### Overview

This funding will enable the implementation of proven, high-impact programs such as MiCareerQuest, Manufacturing Day, localized Talent Tours, internship programs, and mentorship opportunities, directly reaching thousands of students and providing them with invaluable hands-on experience and interactions with potential future employers. By ensuring equitable access to these opportunities, regardless of geographic or economic barriers, we are actively fostering a well-prepared, diverse, and resilient workforce that is essential for Michigan's long-term economic prosperity and competitiveness. This investment represents a commitment to the state's youth, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the evolving job market and contribute meaningfully to Michigan's vibrant economic future.



## Employer-Led Collaboratives

### Action

The Michigan Works! Association supports LEO's funding request to convene employer-led collaboratives and develop customized solutions to fill identified talent gaps in key industries and business sectors.

### Overview

Employer-led collaboratives stand as pivotal platforms, uniting businesses, educational entities, workforce development groups, and key stakeholders in a concerted effort to directly tackle nuanced workforce challenges and skill shortages. These collaboratives empower industries to actively shape and inform training programs, ensuring alignment with real-world job requirements and facilitating smoother transitions from education to employment. By investing in and fostering these strategic partnerships, lawmakers can help secure a robust talent pipeline, tailored to meet the dynamic needs of Michigan's diverse economy, while simultaneously enhancing the state's competitive edge and driving economic growth. This proactive approach ensures that Michigan's workforce is not just ready for today's challenges, but is also being prepared to excel in the jobs and industries of tomorrow.



## Barrier Removal Employment Success

### Action

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for sustainable, long-term funding to maintain the Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES) program to remove systemic barriers to employment, while promoting workforce equity.

### Overview

The Michigan Works! system has administered the BRES program to provide real-time wraparound services to job seekers who may face complex barriers to sustainable employment. Through this flexible program, Michigan Works! agencies have provided connections to reliable transportation, housing, child care, food access, and books and training materials for a wide range of eligible individuals, including Michigan Reconnect students, immigrants and refugees, low-income earners, and justice-involved residents. Maintaining the existing BRES policy will ensure barrier removal resources are available for job seekers who require customized assistance.

First Name	Last Name	District	Visits	Counties
Thomas	Albert	18	3/12/2024 -Leg Day	Allegan (part of), Barry, Calhoun (part of), Ionia (part), Kalamazoo (part), Kent (part)
Aric	Nesbitt	20	3/15/2023-Leg Day	Allegan (part of), Berrien (part of), Kent (part of), Van Buren (part)
Winnie	Brinks	29	3/15/2023- Leg Day 5/18/2023 SE Svc Center 3/12/2024-Leg Day met with Staff	Kent (part of)
Mark	Huizenga	30	3/15/2023-Leg Day 3/13/2024-Leg Day	Kent (part of)
Roger	Victory	31	3/15/2023-Leg Day 3/12/2024-Leg Day	Allegan (part of), Ottawa (part of)
Jon	Bumstead	32	3/15/2023- Leg Day 3/13/2024-Leg Day	Muskegon (part of)
Rick	Outman	33	provided packet-3/13/2024-Leg Day	Ionia (part), Kent (part), Lake (part), Montcalm, Muskegon (part), Newaygo, Ottawa (part)
First Name	Last Name	District		
Joey	Andrews	38		Allegan (part), Berrien (part), VanBuren (part)
Pauline	Wendzel	39	3/13/2024-Leg Day	Allegan
Matt	Hall	42	3/15/2023-Leg Day need to reschedule visit	Allegan
Rachelle	Smit	43	3/14/2023-Leg Day 4/21/2023- Barry Svc Center 3/13/2024-Leg Day	Allegan, Barry
Gina	Johnsen	78		Kent, Barry, Ionia
Angela	Rigas	79	3/13/2024-Leg Day	Allegan, Kent, Barry
Phil	Skaggs	80	3/12/2024-Leg Day	Kent (part of)
Rachel	Hood	81	3/15/2023-Leg Day 3/13/2024-Leg Day	Kent (part of)
Kristian	Grant	82	7/14/2023-SE Svc Center 3/13/2024-Leg Day	Kent (part of)
John	Fitzgerald	83	3/15/2023-Leg Day 9/18/2023-NW Svc Center 3/13/2024-Leg Day	Kent (part of)
Carol	Glanville	84	5/26/2023- NW Svc Center 3/13/2024-Leg Day	Kent (part of)
Bradley	Slagh	85	3/15/2023-Leg Day 3/12/2024-Leg Day	Ottawa (part of)
Nancy	DeBoer	86	3/13/2024-Leg Day	Allegan (part of), Ottawa (part of)
Will	Snyder	87	3/3/2023 - Muskegon 3/15/2023-Leg Day 12/8/2023 - Scherdel 3/13/2024-Leg Day	Muskegon (part of)
Greg	VanWoerkom	88	3/3/2023-Muskegon 3/15/2023- Leg Day 4/28/2023 - Holland Svc Center	Muskegon (part of); Ottawa (part of)
Luke	Meerman	89	3/15/2023-Leg Day 3/12/2024-Leg Day	Kent (part of), Muskegon (part of), Ottawa (part of)
Bryan	Posthumus	90	3/13/2024-Leg Day	Kent (part of)
Pat	Outman	91	3/13/2024-Leg Day	Ionia (part of), Kent (part of), Montcalm (part of)
Graham	Filler	93		Ionia (part of), Montcalm (part of)
Curt	VanderWall	102		Muskegon (part of)
First Name	Last Name	District		
John	Moolenaar	MI-02	3/28/2023-NAWB 5/3/2023 - NSC 8/4/2023 - Barry Svc Center 3/25/2024-NAWB	Barry, Clare, Eaton (part of), Gladwin, Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, Kent (part of), Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland(part), Montcalm, Muskegon (part), Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa (part), Wexford (part)
Hillary	Scholten	MI-03	3/28/2023 5/4/2023 - Muskegon Svc Center	Kent (part), Muskegon (part), Ottawa (part)
Bill	Huizenga	MI-04	pending 2024	
Debbie	Stabenow	MI	3/28/2023 - NAWB	
Gary	Peters	MI	3/28/2023 - NAWB	
Tim	Walberg	MI-05	5/3/2023 - NSC	
Congr. Bobby	Scott	VA	5/3/2023 - NSC	