



To: Members of the Michigan Legislature
Governor Gretchen Whitmer

From: The Undersigned

RE: Support for Investment in Michigan's Workforce

Date: January 25, 2023

Michigan faces a current workforce and talent shortage that continues to impact private businesses across the state. As policy makers work to invest billions of dollars of available funding, we ask for your support of programs and initiatives that will foster a skilled workforce and strengthen the Michigan economy, including the following proposals:

- **\$100 Million over 3 years for a Michigan Skills Fund.** Of the 500,000 annual projected job openings through 2028, 72% will require a high school diploma, training, or certificate. The inclusion of this program will allow private businesses, education providers, and Michigan Works! agencies to partner to provide short-term training opportunities to over 20,000 Michiganders in high-demand occupations, including health care, IT, and advanced manufacturing. The program leaves the educational training to those best suited to provide that service, while utilizing Michigan Works agencies to connect prospective works to private employers and leverage additional federal, state, and private funding sources.
- **\$80 Million over 3 years for Youth Work Experience.** Individuals ages 18-24 account for nearly a quarter of all low-wage workers. The goal of this program to provide high-quality youth work experiences to students will expose them to new career paths in high-demand fields. The funding will be used to grow existing programs like Grow Detroit's Young Talent, as well as launching similar ventures across the state.
- **\$30 Million in one-time investment for Michigan Works Infrastructure.** As fears of an economic slowdown continue to grow, the undersigned want to advocate for investments today that will help us be prepared for tomorrow's challenges. Investing one-time dollars in the physical and digital infrastructure of the state's 16 Michigan Works! agencies will extend the reach of workforce services to more individuals and businesses. The state should invest in workforce training today to prevent having to invest in unemployment services tomorrow.

Michigan should continue to aim for being a top-10 state for developing talent, attracting and retaining talent. In addition, we want Michigan to be a place for businesses to thrive and grow in our communities. We believe these programs will help accomplish this. **Therefore, we ask for your support to include funding for the MI Skills Fund, Youth Work Experience, and Michigan Works! Infrastructure in the next state budget bill.** We appreciate your consideration.

Co-Signers:



Ryan Hundt
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Works! Association



Brian Calley
President & CEO
Small Business Association of Michigan



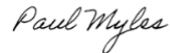
Jim Holcomb
President & CEO
Michigan Chamber of Commerce



Brandy Johnson
President
Michigan Community College Association



Tim Daman
President & CEO
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce



Paul Myles
Sr. Manager, Workforce Development
Magna International Inc.



Jimmy Greene
President
Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan



David Q. Worthams
Director of Employment Policy
Michigan Manufacturers Association



Gabby Bruno
Manager, Government Relations
Ford Motor Company



Glenn Stevens
Executive Director
MICHauto



Kelley Kuhn
President & CEO
Michigan Nonprofit Association



Valerie Knol
State and Local Government Relations
Stellantis



Deb Prato
CEO
The Rapid



Rick Baker
President & CEO
Grand Rapids Chamber



Brian O'Connell
Regional Director, State Government Relations
GM



Paul Krutko
President & CEO
Ann Arbor SPARK



Lance Lyons
President
Lyons Industries, Inc.



Justin Winslow
President & CEO
Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association



Brian Peters
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Health & Hospital Association