



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House Workforce, Trades, and Talent Committee

From: Wendy Block, Michigan Chamber

Subject: MI Chamber Supports Work Registration Requirement (SB 501)

Date: June 24, 2021

Small business owners, agricultural leaders, managers in retail, hospitality, manufacturing and nearly every industry sector across our state are struggling to find job applicants and available workers. The problem? There are too many people without jobs—and too many jobs without people to fill them.

While this is a multi-faceted problem that will not be solved by one bill or one policy change, we believe SB 501 help. SB 501 would require individuals to register for work with a Michigan Works! agency after the individual applied for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and within the time period prescribed by the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA). It is important to note that the “work registration” requirement has long been required by the UIA but has been on hold for the past 14 months due to the pandemic.

The Michigan Chamber supports SB 501 because work registration, when paired with work search requirements (which were reinstated by UIA on May 30), works to match people currently on UI with employers and current jobs openings as well as apprenticeship and other training opportunities. Michigan Works! offices also work to help break down other barriers to employability job seekers may be facing, including affordable childcare and reliable transportation options.

We respectfully urge your support of SB 501. Please let me know if you have any questions at wblock@michamber.com or 517/371-7678.