

Submitted 8-19-21
by David Worthams



TO: Members of the House Committee on Workforce, Trades and Talent

FROM: Business Leaders for Michigan, Detroit Regional Chamber, Grand Rapids Area Chamber, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Small Business Association for Michigan

DATE: August 18, 2021

RE: House Bill 4471

Representing the largest business organizations in Michigan, collectively representing Michigan's largest and smallest private sector employers, we write to state our collective opposition to House Bill 4471. Each of our organizations has individual perspectives on numerous issues including those concerning COVID-19 and overall workplace safety. It is most important for members of the House Workforce, Trades, and Talent Committee to notice, however, that we are unanimous in our conviction that House Bill 4471 represents and overreach of government authority into the operations of private industry.

Michigan employers value the health and safety of our employees and customers above everything else. Not only is it the right thing to do, but we must in order to compete globally. Additionally, we have a legal obligation under the Michigan Occupational, Safety and Health Act (MIOSHA) to keep workers safe. We hear from many of our employees of their concerns about being safe in the workplace and this concern is a critical factor for them when making the decision to return to work. For us to meet the demands placed upon us by the state government and to meet the needs of our employees, we must have the flexibility under the law to find the

best solution for each company. The best way to give us this flexibility is to limit the interference and mandates from the state government as much as possible.

Each employer should be allowed the flexibility to make judgements about safety, how we attract workers, and how we operate our businesses. Public policymakers should leave decisions regarding conditions of employment where they belong, with private business owners.