



## Legislative Committee

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Meeting ID: 210 126 016 683 Passcode: HL6s9MY6

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

**Members:** Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jay Dunwell, Jeran Culina, Nate Henschel, TaRita Johnson, 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 goodwill with state and federal legislators. The committee's role is **Connections** and **Advocacy**.*

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|--|-----------------|
| 1. Welcome and Call to Order                                   |                 |
| 2. Approval of January 28, 2025 Minutes                        | Action Required |
| 3. Governor Whitmer 2025 State of the State Address Recap      | Discussion Item |
| 4. Michigan Works! Association (MWA) Advocacy Day Recap        | Discussion Item |
| 5. National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum Recap | Discussion Item |
| 6. 2025 MWA Federal Priorities                                 | Discussion Item |
| 7. Legislative Visits/Tours                                    | Discussion Item |
| 8. Updates from Members  | Discussion Item |
| 9. Other Business- National Skills Coalition: May 4-7          |                 |

### Next Scheduled Legislative Committee Meetings:

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

July 15, 2025

October 21, 2025

November 18, 2025 – if needed

**Legislative Committee**[Join the meeting now](#)**Meeting ID: 297 980 930 213 Passcode: Qf3do7yY****Tuesday, January 28, 2025 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****MINUTES**

**Members:** Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jeran Culina, Jay Dunwell, Nate Henschel, TaRita Johnson, Marcus Keech

**Present:** Jim Fisher, Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jay Dunwell, TaRita Johnson, Marcus Keech, 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 goodwill with state and federal legislators. The committee's role is **Connections** and **Advocacy**.*

1. Welcome and Call to order by Chairperson, Jim Fisher at 10:33 a.m.

2. Approval of December 16, 2024 Minutes

**Action Required**

**Motion – Mark Bergsma**

**Second – Jay Dunwell**

**Item Approved by Vote – Motion carried.**

3. Governor Whitmer State of the State Address: February 26

**Information Item**

Jacob Maas, Chief Executive Officer reported that on Wednesday, February 26, Governor Whitmer is expected to deliver her 7<sup>th</sup> State of the State Address.

4. Michigan Works! Association (MWA) Advocacy Day: March 18-19

**Discussion Item**

Jacob Maas reported that each year, the MWA hosts legislative day in Lansing, MI. This year the event is scheduled for March 19. Jacob reported the staff plan to participate across two consecutive days on March 18 and 19. Registration and logistics are underway and will be communicated with the members planning to attend. March 18: Jacob, Angie, TaRita, Marcus; March 19: Jacob, Angie, Jim, Mark B, Jay D

5. 2025 MWA State/Federal Priorities

**Discussion Item**

Jacob reported that the MWA is working on statewide and federal legislative priorities. Notable key focuses may include workforce reauthorizations, infrastructure and training funds such as Going Pro Talent Fund (GPTF) were also discussed. Workforce shortages and employer challenges were also discussed. Members recommended meetings with stakeholders, to assist in aligning messages and efforts. Recommendations were also discussed on event preparation for both the MWA Advocacy Day and upcoming National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum. Staff will ensure that members attending either of those events are provided with materials to effectively engage legislators.

6. Legislative Visits/Tours

**Discussion Item**

Discussion took place legislative visits and tours getting scheduled in early-late spring. Discussion took place on ensuring that these visits and tours are planned to engage legislators and demonstrate the impact of workforce development programs through service center tours and possibly employer site visits. Jacob also reviewed the list of legislators or offices' that have signed up to attend the MiCareerQuest event scheduled for March 20,

2025, reiterating that additional outreach will continue to secure more legislative attendees with specific employer engagements for a more meaningful impact.

7. Update from Members

**Discussion Item**

Marcus Keech provided a few updates on recent legislative visits he has been involved with. TaRita Johnson reported that The Right Place, Inc. is entering its strategic planning phase so that additional information will be shared on stakeholder engagement opportunities to include input from employers and workforce development organizations.

8. Other Business –

a. National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum: March 29-April 1: Jacob stated that a small group from West Michigan Works! will be attending the NAWB event.

b. Upcoming Committee appointments will be crucial to help with outreach and engagement.

9. Adjournment at 11:30 a.m. by Jim Fisher. Next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2025.

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

## SOTS 2025 STAKEHOLDER TALKING POINTS

**In her 2025 State of the State Address, Governor Whitmer called on us to work together to get things done, lower costs for Michigan families, create good-paying Michigan jobs, and deliver better results for Michigan taxpayers.**

- Over the last few years, we've heard from countless Michiganders who are sick of the games and want us to work together to get things done.
- Michigan families are grappling with high costs on the essentials right now. It's hard to buy a house, a car, or pay the bills. And divisive political rhetoric has infected every part of our lives, driven by algorithms and zero-sum politicians.
- In her speech, the Governor centered stories from Michiganders across the state who want a good education, an affordable place to live, more money in their pocket, and a fair shot at a great life.

**Governor Whitmer outlined how she'll continue working to make a difference on the issues that matter:**

- Rolled back the retirement tax and expanded the Working Families Tax Credit. This year, hundreds of thousands of senior households will save an average of \$1,000 on their taxes and 650,000 families—including half the kids in Michigan—will get an average tax refund of \$3,200.
- Made largest investment to build housing in Michigan history—\$2 billion to build or renovate 121,000 home—for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.
- Expanded Michigan Energy Assistance Program to help 335,000 more families save money on their monthly utility bills.
- Called for bipartisan action to reduce medical debt, a problem that affects 700,000 Michiganders.
- Called on the legislature and Congress to work with Michigan to continue expanding affordable child care, including continuing free pre-K for all.
- Announced an executive directive to reach more young men and boost enrollment in higher education and skills training programs like Michigan Reconnect, where they're currently outnumbered.
- Called on President Trump to support Selfridge Air National Guard Base with a new fighter mission, supporting military families and good-paying jobs.
- Called on the legislature to work with her to overhaul state permitting and licensing, so we can cut red tape, make government more efficient, and build stuff faster.
- Highlighted budget proposal for more transparency in education so every parent can track school performance, targeted investments on literacy, and transparency in pork so Michiganders can track government spending.
- Proposed limiting the use of smartphones in class and closing a longstanding loophole to tax vapes so we can protect student health, safety, and academic performance.

**We have an opportunity to pave a new way forward, lead, and make a difference for Michigan families. Let's work together and get this done.**

# 2025 Federal Legislative Priorities

- \$** Workforce development programs like **WIOA** deliver a **\$15 return** on every **\$1 invested**, proving their powerful impact.
- ↘** Despite rising employer demand for skilled workers, **workforce funding** has been cut by nearly **50%** over the past two decades.
- !** Investing in **WIOA**, **TAA**, and **TANF** will strengthen economic mobility, create career pathways, and build a competitive workforce for Michigan and the nation.

## WIOA

The **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** strengthens Michigan's workforce by connecting businesses with talent. Robust funding empowers collaboration, builds strong partnerships, and drives economic growth. Without support, our communities and opportunities will weaken. We urge Congress to boost funding or explore innovative solutions that expand apprenticeships, enhance training, and maintain local control.

## TAA

Since **Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)** expired, over 5,000 displaced Michigan workers have been left without critical support. We urge Congress to reinstate benefits, broaden eligibility to empower workers impacted by supply chain challenges, and collaborate with businesses to invest in workforce upskilling—ensuring Michigan workers remain competitive in a powerful and evolving global market.

## TANF

To support self-sufficiency through **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**, we urge Congress to expand training, enhance childcare and transportation support, and boost employer partnerships. Empowering individuals with the right skills fosters independence, strengthens community bonds, and builds economic resilience. Collaboration with businesses and service providers will create powerful, lasting change for families and the broader economy.

## CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED

- ✓ Support **WIOA** to provide job seekers and businesses with critical workforce services.
- ✓ Revitalize **TAA** to support workers impacted by trade disruptions.
- ✓ Strengthen **TANF** to create sustainable career pathways for individuals and families.



### Contact Us

Scan QR Code  
or visit  
[www.michiganworks.org](http://www.michiganworks.org)

Michigan Works! Association  
2500 Kerry Street Suite 210  
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517-371-1100

# Setting the Standard in Workforce Development

**Why it WORKS!** We are a locally controlled, demand-driven, and adaptable workforce development system that drives economic growth and strengthens communities. Every year, our services reach nearly **ONE MILLION** business and community members.

**Michigan is the standard.**

## Local Control

Private sector-led Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) drive economic growth by aligning workforce training with industry needs, fostering employer-educator partnerships, and offering a streamlined, community-wide hub for workforce development funding—maximizing efficiency and reducing duplication.



## Comprehensive Services

With a statewide presence, Michigan Works! Service Centers provide accessible services to employers and job seekers in every corner of Michigan. Core services include job and career information, training, and access to job banks. Local communities benefit from tailored supplemental services to meet regional needs.



## Economic Development Partner

Business leaders on local boards define the strategic vision of the system and promote its value. Michigan Works! also facilitates business involvement in educational reform.



## Adaptable System

Michigan Works! continuously adapts to the changing economic climate and local needs. It also operates under a stringent conflict of interest policy.



## Talent. Opportunity. Impact.

**Supporting Business Growth:** Connecting talent with opportunity to boost economic expansion.

**Workforce Empowerment:** Guiding individuals to meaningful careers and stronger communities.

**Educational Advancement:** Bridging business and education for a thriving talent pipeline.

## KEY PARTNERS

Local Chambers of Commerce	Local Elected Officials	Community Colleges & Educational Institutions	Community Organizations	State and Federal Government Agencies	Labor Partners
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