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MI Chamber Reacts to Court of Appeals Decision on ‘Adopt and Amend’ and Status of Minimum Wage, Paid Sick Leave Laws

(LANSING, Mich.) – Michigan businesses have more certainty and relief after today’s Michigan Court of Appeals 3-0 decision on *Mothering Justice v Attorney General*, a case that questioned whether the Michigan Legislature had the constitutional authority to adopt and subsequently amend (“adopt-and-amend”) two 2018 ballot initiatives. One would have increased the minimum wage to \$12 per hour in 2023 and increased tipped wages to the full minimum wage, and the other would have enacted one of most sweeping paid sick leave laws in the country, thereby forcing nearly every business across the state to make significant changes to their paid time off policies (PTO) and procedures.

“The Michigan Chamber thanks the Michigan Court of Appeals for putting politics aside and focusing on whether the plaintiffs’ arguments and earlier trial court’s conclusions were actually supported by the text of the Michigan Constitution,” said **Wendy Block, senior VP of business advocacy and member engagement for the Michigan Chamber**. “This ruling is welcome news for Michigan’s job providers, who were struggling with how they could possibly make the sweeping and costly changes called for the lower court’s decision—and by the arbitrarily imposed deadline of Feb. 19. If the lower court’s ruling had been left to stand, it would have had dire consequences on the state’s employers, overall business climate and economy – all at a time when our state, communities and families can least afford it.”

Block noted that the Chamber fully expects this decision to be appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court. She also said the decision “being rooted in the plain words of the Michigan Constitution and not trying to legislate an outcome from the bench” was encouraging.

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The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is a statewide business organization representing approximately 5,000 employers, trade associations and local chambers of commerce. The Michigan Chamber represents businesses of every size and type in all 83 counties across the state and employing more than 1 million Michiganders. The Chamber was established in 1959 to be an advocate for Michigan’s job providers in the legislative, political and legal process.