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MI Chamber Opposes Politically Charged, Economically Damaging Repeal Michigan’s Landmark Right to Work Law

(LANSING, Mich.) – The Michigan Chamber expressed extreme disappointment after the House Labor Committee jammed through a series of short-sighted proposals that would set the state backward today, from legislation repealing Michigan’s landmark Right to Work legislation (HB 4004-5) to action reinstating the state’s prevailing wage law (HB 4007). It is expected that the full House will try to move the Right to Work legislation out of the chamber yet today – even as the Chamber and others within the business community were denied the right to testify at the only committee hearing.

“The action by the House Labor Committee not only caves to union demands, but comes directly at the expense of workers, employers and taxpayers,” said **Wendy Block, senior VP of business advocacy and member engagement for the Michigan Chamber**. “Right to Work is better for hardworking Michiganders and our job providers, communities, and economy. It’s about freedom and personal choice – the ability of employees to decide whether to pay dues or other equivalent fees to labor unions as a condition of employment and in how to spend their wages. It’s about our economic competitiveness and retaining current jobs and attracting next generation jobs. We simply can’t afford to turn back the clock to the outdated policies of the past.”

Block noted that 28 other states now have Right to Work laws. She also pointed to recent surveys that affirmed Michigan voters strongly supporting Michigan’s Right to Work law with 74% of the state’s registered voters opposed to repeal – from across political affiliations and even in union households. “It’s clear that this vote is more about politics than representing constituents or advancing our state’s economic competitiveness.”

Michigan Chamber President & CEO Jim Holcomb added: “This is exactly the type of shortsighted, politically-charged policy that imposes burdensome, unnecessary hurdles to generating more and better jobs and the economic growth that benefits all Michiganders. We urge policymakers to put retribution politics aside and focus on legislating and governing on the issues that can make a meaningful difference in our state’s quality of life and position Michigan as THE destination for job creation and entrepreneurship.”

Retaining Michigan as a Right to Work state is a top priority for the Michigan Chamber and its thousands of member employers. The organization will continue to advocate fiercely on this issue if and when the issue goes to the Michigan Senate for consideration.

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