



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Wednesday Aug. 30, 2023

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## **Michigan Chamber Reaction to Governor's 'What's Next Address'**

(LANSING, Mich.) – The Michigan Chamber of Commerce released the following statements on today's "What's Next Address" from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer:

### *Overall*

"We share a vision and commitment with the Governor to growing Michigan's population and building a stronger, thriving state for all. But it's nearly impossible to see how some of the concepts outlined today – or in existing legislative proposals – get us there or aren't inherently contradictory to those goals," said **Michigan Chamber President & CEO Jim Holcomb**. "Our state's job providers and talented workforce count on pragmatic, effective public policy that moves Michigan forward, not pushes us backward. Our economic competitiveness will improve if we focus on policies based upon free enterprise and limited government, not the enactment of job-killing mandates and higher taxes."

### *Paid Leave*

"We have grave concerns with creating a new, \$1 billion-plus annual payroll tax on every worker and business to fund a massive, new paid leave government insurance program," said **Wendy Block, the Michigan Chamber's Senior Vice President of Business Advocacy**. "Michigan's job providers recognize competitive employee benefits are key to attracting and retaining talent and they are currently providing what is economically feasible. A one-size-fits-all mandate of this type and magnitude would result in higher taxes, bloated government bureaucracy and hurt the very people it is intending to help – especially small businesses and Michiganders living paycheck-to-paycheck."

### *Energy*

"A clean energy future is vitally important, but how we get there matters and must be realistic. We simply can't ignore the necessity of safe, reliable and affordable energy," said **Mike Alaimo, the Michigan Chamber's Director of Environmental and Energy Affairs**. "We need to have serious conversations around rational goals and how we can responsibly advance clean energy without posing significant economic burdens on families, businesses and communities."

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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 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.*