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Local Preemption Action = Employment UNCertainty, says Michigan Chamber

(Lansing, Mich.) – The Michigan Chamber released the following statement in response to the Senate Labor Committee’s partisan vote advancing legislation to allow local units of government to adopt their own patchwork scheme of complicated new mandates governing employers’ relations with their employees, including wages, benefits and more (Senate Bill 171):

“Giving Michigan’s 1,800 local governments the green light to adopt, enforce and administer individual ordinances, policies and regulations regulating private sector wages, paid or unpaid leave requirements, other fringe benefits, regulations on work stoppages or strikes just creates a complex patchwork mess that hurts our state,” said **Wendy Block, senior vice president of business advocacy for the Michigan Chamber**. “We believe the state and federal governments should continue to have exclusive jurisdiction on matters governing private sector employers’ relations with their employees.”

Block outlined additional reasons why the legislation would hurt Michigan.

- Costly and complex to administer.
- Serve as a significant deterrent to economic development in jurisdictions that choose to enact them, plus inhibits our state’s overall economic competitiveness.
- Michigan would be a significant outlier – 44 other states have moved to give the state and federal government exclusive authority to regulate these areas.

The Michigan Chamber is working with a broad and diverse coalition to oppose SB 171.

View the 31-member coalition’s [memo](#) to learn more.

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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.