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To: Honorable Members of the Michigan House Government Operations Committee

From: Amanda Fisher, Assistant State Director

Date: March 11, 2020

RE: Support HCR 17 – Uphold Medicaid Work Requirements

We are writing to ask your support for HCR 17 – a resolution encouraging the Secretary of Health and Human Services to appeal the federal court ruling invalidating the waiver for Michigan's Medicaid work requirements, defend the waiver, and uphold its intended purpose of encouraging self-sufficiency.

While NFIB members opposed expanding Medicaid (Healthy Michigan), they were very supportive of PA 208 of 2018 which required those receiving benefits to work or volunteer in some capacity.

The legislation that Michigan passed in 2013 to expand Medicaid eligibility was intended to extend health care coverage to the working poor. Since Medicaid expansion was designed for the working poor, it is not inconsistent or unusual to expect that a work requirement should be a part of the criteria for eligibility.

NFIB's latest job report shows that labor challenges remain a top issue facing small business owners. In February, 38% of employers had openings they were unable to fill. In addition, 36% of small business owners reported plans to raise compensation in response to the tight labor market.

A continued robust economy and record job openings provide an unprecedented opportunity to encourage our able-bodied Medicaid population to join the workforce and become an active participant in moving themselves and Michigan forward.

Again, please support HCR 17 and thank you for your support of small business!