

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210



May 26, 2020

The Honorable Michael James Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

Thank you for your waiver request submission to the U.S. Department of Labor (Department) regarding certain statutory and regulatory provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the accompanying plan to improve the statewide workforce development system (copy enclosed). The waiver request was received March 2, 2020, as part of your recent WIOA State Plan submission. This letter provides the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) official response to your requests and memorializes that Alaska will meet the outcomes and implement the measures identified in its plan to ensure accountability agreed to by Alaska and ETA. This action is taken under the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIOA Title I, Subtitles A, B, and E, and Sections 8–10 of the Wagner–Peyster Act in WIOA Section 189(i).

Requested Waiver: Application of WIOA Section 107(b) to allow the state board to carry out the roles of a local board.

ETA Response: ETA approves the State's request for a waiver to allow the state board to carry out the roles of the local workforce development boards in the State. ETA reviewed the State's waiver request and plan and has determined that the requirements requested to be waived impede the ability of the State to implement its plan to improve the workforce development system. Given the support for this waiver request by the local elected officials in the local area and the challenges the State and local areas have in mounting a fully compliant local-led board at this time, the U.S. Department of Labor agrees that the state board is in a better position to ensure effective service delivery in the local workforce areas in the State. Under this waiver, the Governor may designate the state board to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the local boards in the state. In implementing this waiver, the State must:

- Continue to include local input into its activities. As proposed in the State's waiver request, the state board must form a subcommittee to reflect the geographic diversity of the State and its local elected officials; and
- Allocate funding to the local area for which the state board is carrying out local board functions.

The State must report its waiver outcomes and implementation of the approved waiver in the WIOA Annual Report. ETA will use this information to assess continued waiver approval and to identify promising practices that may be adopted more widely. ETA is available to provide technical assistance to you in support of your goals. The Department proposed additional flexibility in its budgets for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021 to give governors more decision-making authority to meet the workforce needs of their states.

If you have questions, feel free to contact my office at (202) 693-2772.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Pallasch".

John Pallasch
Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Tamika Ledbetter, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce
Development
Nicholas Lalpui, Dallas/San Francisco Regional Administrator, ETA
Violet Jackson, Federal Project Officer, ETA