

RESOLUTION NUMBER 11-02

Resolution to Continue States' Ongoing Participation in the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Employment Statistics (CES) Program

DRAFT

WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is a private industry driven public organization that is accountable through its members including representatives from business and industry, education, organized labor, and government to the residents, the Legislature and the Governor of Alaska;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board acts as the lead state planning and coordinating entity for state human resource programs involving employment training, career and technical education, and workforce development;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board relies on the ability of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Research and Analysis Section (R&A) economists to analyze state and metropolitan labor data to assist job seekers, local businesses, policymakers and others.

WHEREAS, the CES program surveys business establishments throughout the United States to produce state and metropolitan area data on employment, hours worked, and earnings at detailed industry levels—it is one of the earliest indicators of economic conditions each month—and R&A economists help produce and analyze this information to provide timely decision-making support to state and local policy makers, business leaders, job seekers, and others;

WHEREAS, the current CES program provides critical and timely employment estimates that are used as an early economic indicator as to the health of Alaska's economy;

WHEREAS, The current CES program provides Alaska employment estimates that are in most instances better than the centralized method proposed by BLS;

WHEREAS, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) proposes to centralize the CES program's production of monthly state and metropolitan area employment estimates, moving estimates production, and the related funding, from DOLWD's Research and Analysis Section (R&A) to BLS staff located in Washington D.C

WHEREAS, a reduced state role will diminish the accuracy, clarity, and credibility of the CES program and limit significantly the ability of R&A's economists to analyze state and metropolitan labor data to assist job seekers, local businesses, policymakers and others.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the CES program should not be centralized. States should maintain their historic role in the production of monthly current employment statistics estimates with the appropriate level of funding.

CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board held a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, and convened this 23rd day of February, 2011 and the foregoing Resolution was adopted unanimously at said meeting.

Signed this 23rd day of February, 2011.

Jim Lynch, Chair
Alaska Workforce Investment Board