September 1, 2020

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

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 (enclosed). The waiver request was received on June 26, 2020. This letter provides the Employment and Training Administration’s (ETA) official response to your request and memorializes that Ohio will meet the outcomes and implement the measures identified in its plan to ensure accountability agreed to by Ohio 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-Peyser Act in WIOA Section 189(i).

Requested Waiver: Waiver of the requirement at 20 CFR 683.110(c)(1) and (2), which limits the period of local WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth funds availability to the program year (PY) of allotment and the succeeding year.

ETA Response: ETA approves the State’s waiver request through June 30, 2021, to permit the State to make local WIOA PY 2018 funds available to local areas for a three-year expenditure period. ETA reviewed the State’s waiver request and plan and has determined that the requirements requested to be waived impede the ability of Ohio to implement its plan to improve the workforce development system.

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,

John Pallasch
Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training

Enclosure

c: Cynthia C. Dungey, Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Rose Zibert, Acting Regional Administrator, ETA Chicago Regional Office
Carl Stahlheber, Federal Project Officer, ETA Chicago Regional Office