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MIRS Breaking News - Whitmer Wants To Extend Automatic OT Pay To More Workers - 11:14 a.m.

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Gov. Gretchen **WHITMER** said today she'd pursue administrative rules to expand how many Michigan workers would automatically qualify to receive overtime pay.

The Governor cited a previous proposal from former President Barack **OBAMA** that would've allowed workers making up to \$47,476 to be eligible for overtime pay if they went over 40 hours a week. And she also mentioned how President Donald **TRUMP** scaled back the proposal to workers making \$35,568, but Whitmer said that wasn't enough.

"President Trump took a big step backwards when he implemented a rule that leaves 200,000 Michigan workers behind," the Governor said in a press release today. "That's why today I'm directing the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to take action that will extend the right to overtime pay for thousands of Michigan workers. Strengthening paychecks is good for families, good for business, and good for our economy. It's time to get it done."

The Governor didn't specifically say what salary threshold she has in mind for Michigan, but the press release did indicate it would benefit 200,000 Michiganders, the same number of people she said Trump's scaled back rule "leaves behind."

Pressed for a number, Whitmer spokesperson Tiffany **BROWN** said the Governor hopes the "rulemaking process can help us reach the right number for Michigan's working families and help lift more people into the middle class."

Brown also said Obama's proposal – which would equal \$51,000 today – is a "good number to start looking at" and also mentioned a United Way report that found a family of four needs roughly \$61,000 a year "to afford the basics like food, housing, and health care."

The business community was opposed to the Obama action and was initially tentative in whether or not to support the Trump's proposal (See "[Clock Is Running For Public Comment On Overtime Pay Rule](#)," 3/28/19).

The current threshold is \$23,660, meaning anyone who works more than 40 hours per week and paid a salary amount below the threshold would be required to be paid overtime under the law.

Progress Michigan said Whitmer's move would "help working families" because "when employees don't get paid for extra work, they're getting ripped off by their bosses and that's not right . . . this is a great step toward ensuring hundreds of thousands of working people across Michigan are paid for the hours they've worked."

Whitmer said she'd pursue the action via a rulemaking request pushed by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), which could take anywhere from six months to a year to complete.

The Governor was scheduled to make the announcement today in Detroit with Lt. Gov. Garlin **GILCHRIST II** and LEO Director Jeff **DONOFRIO**.

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