

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Committee
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
Chair
Employment and Workplace Safety
Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Ranking Member
Employment and Workplace Safety
Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Harkin, Alexander, Casey, Isakson, and Murray:

We commend the Committee for its bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and appreciate your hard work to move the bill through Committee. The undersigned groups strongly believe that WIA reauthorization should be brought to the floor this year. We look forward to working with the Senate to make further improvements to the bill as it moves through the legislative process.

In 2012, nearly 8.5 million individuals received training and other employment services funded under WIA Title I—about a 250 percent increase since the start of the recession in 2008—while many millions more received services or supports through the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services, Adult Education and Family Literacy, and Vocational Rehabilitation programs.

It is vital for Congress to modernize the nation's workforce development system to ensure that individuals at all skill levels are able to obtain the training and education they need to get and keep jobs that lead to economic security, while also ensuring that employers in high-growth and emerging industries are able to find qualified workers to fill current and projected job openings. Today more than 11 million U.S. workers (7.3 percent) are unemployed; it is particularly alarming that nearly 40 percent of those workers have been unemployed for over six months. Despite the workforce system's success in assisting workers in the current economy—WIA Title I programs successfully place close to six in ten clients in employment (or education for youth)—the underlying legislation was written in 1998, a time of four percent unemployment.

The workforce development field has made significant advances since WIA was originally authorized in providing employment and training services, including building career pathways to meet the needs of workers at all skill levels and ages; engaging employers to ensure training and adult education is linked to skilled workforce needs; promoting flexible performance measures for youth and young adults; and improving transparency and accountability through better data systems. Congress must act to reauthorize WIA if these best practices are to be reflected in current law.

Furthermore, failure to reauthorize WIA leaves federal job training programs vulnerable to continued funding cuts. Such cuts will lead to disruptions in services, and will impact the ability of our nation's employers to find the skilled workers they need to fill immediate job openings and plan for future growth.

While the organizations signing this letter may not support every provision in the committee-passed bill, we are committed to seeing WIA reauthorized in the 113th Congress. We urge Congress to continue operating on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize WIA and ensure that our nation's workers have the skills they need to get and keep a job, and that employers have access to the skilled workforce they need to compete in the global economy.

Sincerely,

National/Multi-State Organizations

ACT, Inc.
American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Society of Association Executives
American Society for Training & Development (ASTD)
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Aspen Institute Workforce Strategies Initiative
Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)
Center for Women Policy Studies
Central Workforce Alliance (CWA)
Community Action Partnership
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW)
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (CAAL)
Easter Seals
Eastern Alliance of Farmworker Advocates
Emerald Cities Collaborative
Goodwill Industries International
Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)

Insight Center for Community Economic Development
Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement
International Association of Jewish Vocational Service (IAJVS)
International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP)
Jobs for the Future (JFF)
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC)
McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University
National Able Network, Inc.
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)
National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)
National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc)
National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)
National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP)
National Center for Family Literacy
National College Transition Network (NCTN) at World Education, Inc.
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE)
National Employment Law Project (NELP)
National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS)
National League of Cities
National Skills Coalition
National Transitional Jobs Network (NTJN)
National Urban League
National Workforce Association (NWA)
National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC)
New England Farm Workers Council
PHI – Quality Care through Quality Jobs
Rocky Mountain HI Coalition
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Strive International
The Corps Network
The Eisen Group
Transportation Institute
United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)
United Way Worldwide
Western Alliance of Farmworker Advocates
Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)
World Education, Inc.

Young Invincibles
YouthBuild USA

State, Regional, and Local Organizations

Alabama

Pickens County Workforce and Economic Development Partnership
Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission
Telamon Alabama

Arkansas

Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc.
West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District

Arizona

Arizona Generation and Transmission Cooperatives
Gila-Pinal Workforce Investment Board
Pima Community College
Portable Practical Educational Preparation (PPEP)
The Eastern Arizona Area Health Education Center
Valley of the Sun United Way
Workforce Arizona Council

California

Alameda County
Archdiocesan Youth Employment
Before the Transition, Inc.
California Community Colleges
California Human Development
California Workforce Association (CWA)
CAMEO – California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity
Center for Employment Training (CET)
Central Valley Opportunity Center
Contra Costa County
Employers' Training Resource
Goodwill SOLAC
Goodwill Southern California
Jewish Vocational Service San Francisco
Kings View Ready, Set, Go!
Lassen County Health & Social Service Agency
Local 146
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Madera County Workforce Investment Board

Napa Valley Adult Education
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment
Proteus
Riverside County
San Mateo County Local Workforce Investment Board
Santa Barbara County
Taller San Jose
United Way of the Bay Area
United Way of Fresno County
United Way of Stanislaus County
Ventura County

Colorado

AmeriTeach
Bell Policy Center
Board of County Commissioners, Arapahoe County
Boulder County Board of County Commissioners
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Impact: Center for Economic Prosperity
Discover Goodwill of Southern and Western Colorado
Pretty Good Consulting, Inc.
Rocky Mountain SER
Skills2Compete – Colorado
The Center for Work Ethic Development

Connecticut

1199 NE Training and Upgrading Fund
Capital Workforce Partners
CCAT: Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology
Center for Latino Progress: CPRF
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Community College System
Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)
New Haven Manufacturers Association
North Haven Adult Education
United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

Florida

Bay District Schools STARS Workforce Program
CareerEdge
Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.
United Way of Broward County
United Way of Florida

United Way of Manatee County
United Way of Miami-Dade
United Way of Northeast Florida
United Way Suncoast

Georgia

Goodwill of North Georgia, Inc.
Lower Savannah Council of Governments
Southern Georgia Regional Commission
Taylor County Board of Commissioners
Vann Planning and Management Group

Hawaii

Aloha United Way
County of Kauai
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Oahu WorkLinks

Idaho

Magic Valley Youth Services, Inc.

Illinois

African American Christian Foundation
Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
Chicago Family Health Center
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago TechWorks
DuPage County Community Services
Employment & Employers Services
Erie Neighborhood House
Goldie's Place
Grundy Livingston Kankakee Workforce Board
Idea Fuel
Illinois Migrant Council
Instituto del Progreso Latino
Lake County Workforce Investment Board
Lake County Workforce Development
Local Workforce Area 23
Management, Training, and Consulting Corporation
MicroTrain
OAI, Inc.

Pyramid Partnership, Inc.
Shawnee Development Council, Inc.
Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
Symbol Training Institute
West Suburban Jobs Council
Women Employed

Indiana

Indiana Institute for Working Families (IIWF)
Indiana Region 4 Workforce Board
Indiana State AFL-CIO Labor Institute for Training (LIFT), Inc.
Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) Indianapolis
Positive Action Taking-Control
United Way of Delaware County

Iowa

Association of Iowa Workforce Partners
Central Iowa Workforce Investment Board
Iowa Central Community College
Kirkwood Community College
United Way of Central Iowa

Kansas

SER Corporation

Kentucky

Bluegrass Area Development District
Green River Area Development District
Lake Cumberland Area Development District
Lincoln Trail Area Development District
Sarah's Place Women's Resource Center, Inc.

Louisiana

Acadian Regional Development District
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
Gulf Area Training Enterprises, LLC
Louisiana Local Area Coordinators' Association

Maine

Eastern Maine Development Corporation
Maine Marine Trades Association
Northern Maine Development Commission
United Way of Eastern Maine

United Way of Greater Portland
United Way of Mid-Maine
United Way of York County

Maryland

Allegany County Commissioners
Central Scholarship
Goodwill of Monocacy Valley, Inc.
IEC Chesapeake
Lupson & Associates
Maryland Governor's Workforce Investment Board
Montgomery County
Workforce Investment Network for Maryland

Massachusetts

AccuRounds, Inc.
Career Counselors' Consortium
FutureWorks
Jewish Vocational Service of Greater Boston
Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries
Notre Dame Education Center (NDEC) Lawrence
Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce, Inc.
Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Inc.
SkillWorks
Training Inc., YMCA Global Centers of Excellence Initiative
United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton, Inc.

Michigan

Disruptive Innovations for Social Change
Eastern Upper Peninsula Employment & Training Consortium
Employment & Training Designs, Inc.
Flint Strive
Focus: HOPE
Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids
Goodwill Industries of West Michigan, Inc.
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (JAMA)
Levin Energy Partners, LLC
Michigan HRDI
Michigan League for Public Policy
Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium
Michigan's Children
South Central Michigan Works!
United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Workforce Employment & Training Center

Minnesota

Great Lakes Employment and Training Association
Hamline University
Lake County
Minnesota Workforce Council Association
Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Region Five Development Commission
South Central Workforce Council
Twin Cities RISE!
United Way of Greater Duluth

Mississippi

Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi
Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts
Mississippi Delta Council for Farmworkers Opportunities
North Central Planning and Development District

Missouri

Clinton County Government
Cuba Development Group
Mo-Kan Regional Council
St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE)
Training and Employment Administrators of Missouri (TEAM)
Westwind CDL Training Center
Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri
Workforce Investment Board of Southwest Missouri

Montana

Career Transitions, Inc.
Greater Gallatin United Way, Inc.

Nebraska

Banner County Road Department
Greater Lincoln Workforce Investment Board

Nevada

Nye Communities Coalition
Nye County Commission
S.A.F.E. House, Inc.

New Hampshire

White Mountains Community College

New Jersey

PathStone New Jersey

Rebuild Workforce Project

The Work Group/New Jersey Youth Corps of Camden

United Way of Central Jersey

United Way of Monmouth County

United Way of Northern New Jersey

New Mexico

Curry County

HELP New Mexico, Inc.

Innovate + Educate

New York

1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS)

CSEA Partnership for Education and Training

FAME – Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers Enterprise

Genesee County

Genesee County Legislature

IBEW Local 43

Long Island Cares, Inc. – The Harry Chapin Food Bank

Madison County

North Country Workforce Investment Board

PathStone New York

Per Scholas, Inc.

Rensselaer County

Rensselaer County One Stop Center

Sheila Maguire Consulting

St. Nicks Alliance

Steuben County

Warren County One Stop Career Center

Workforce Investment Board Herkimer, Madison & Oneida

North Carolina

Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce

Boone Area Chamber of Commerce

Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Catawba County Chamber of Commerce

Durham County Government
Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board
GoNC
High Country Workforce Development Board
Mitchell County Economic Development Commission
South by North Strategies, Ltd.
Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Telamon North Carolina
United Way of North Carolina

Ohio

Cleveland Clinic
East End Community Services
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
Lorain County Commissioners
Lorain County Workforce Development Agency
Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition
Marion Goodwill Industries, Inc.
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries
Ohio United Way
Ohio Workforce Coalition
Partners for a Competitive Workforce
PathStone Ohio
The Summit and Medina County Workforce Investment Board
Trumbull County Department of Job and Family Services/One Stop
United Way of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of Greater Toledo
United Way of Portage County
WSOS Community Action

Oklahoma

Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma
ORO Development Corporation
Southwest Oklahoma Development Authority

Oregon

Association of Oregon Counties
Columbia County
Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC)
Lane Workforce Partnership
Morrow County
Oregon Human Development Corporation

Oregon Workforce Partnership
Portland Community College
Tilamook County
Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group
Worksystems, Inc.

Pennsylvania

Aker Philadelphia Shipyard
Allegheny Conference on Community Development
Berks County Workforce Investment Board
District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund
Garraty Workforce Investment
Goodwill Industries of Northeastern Pennsylvania
Greater Philadelphia Healthcare Partnership
Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council
Indiana County
JEVS Human Services
Jewish Family & Children's Service
PathStone Pennsylvania
Pathways PA
People's Emergency Center
Philadelphia Youth Network
Strategy Solutions
United Way of Beaver County
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Central New Jersey
United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties
United Way of the Capital Region
United Way of Westmoreland County
Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians

Puerto Rico

One Stop Career Center of Puerto Rico, Inc.
PathStone Puerto Rico

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Governor's Workforce Investment Board
The Economic Progress Institute
United Way of Rhode Island

South Carolina

Telamon South Carolina
United Way of South Carolina

South Dakota

Black Hills Special Services Cooperative

Tennessee

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Roane County United Way
Tennessee Opportunity Programs
United Way of Anderson County
United Way of Putnam County
United Way of Washington County TN, Inc.
United Ways of Tennessee

Texas

Baytown Chamber of Commerce
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Houston Community College
Lone Star College System
United Way for Greater Austin
United Way of El Paso County
United Way of South Texas
United Way of Tarrant County
United Ways of Texas

Utah

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association
Sevier County

Vermont

Central Vermont Community Action Council
Telamon Vermont
Vermont Adult Learning

Virginia

Arlington County Board
Boxwood Technology
Goodwill Industries of South Central Virginia
Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
Job Assistance Center, Inc.
New River Community Action, Inc.
RADVA Corporation
Region 2000 Workforce Investment Board
Remediation and Training Institute
Telamon Virginia

Washington

Asian Counseling and Referral Service

King County Reemployment Support Center

Literacy Source

Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington

Port Jobs

Seattle Jobs Initiative

Tacoma Goodwill

YWCA of Spokane

Wisconsin

9to5

Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee

Labor, Education & Training Center (LETC)

Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board

Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

Schneider Finance, Inc. (Small Business Development)

UMOS

Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP)

Wisconsin Workforce Development Association

Workforce Development Board of South Central WI