



July 7, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Kline, Miller, Foxx and Hinojosa:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and our respective national memberships of local government officials, business leaders, workforce investment boards, and regional and development organization leaders, we are writing to express our complete support for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA, H.R. 803, as it passed the Senate). We applaud you for your bipartisan and bicameral work on this bill and urge every member of the House of Representatives to vote in favor of H.R. 803.

As drafted, WIOA is a carefully crafted compromise that properly balances federal, state, and local interests, that is designed to move our nation's workforce system into the 21st Century, and that each of our organizations is proud to support.

The reasons for our support are clear. There is consensus that the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is long overdue for reauthorization. To be competitive in a 21st Century economy, our country needs a robust workforce system that meets the needs of business, and is supported by an increase in investment in quality services, resources and training. WIOA would achieve these goals through much needed modernization and streamlining of the nation's current workforce system, helping those Americans who are out of work receive the training and the support they require to obtain employment.

In addition, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act:

- reaffirms the strong partnership among local elected officials, local business leaders and the local workforce development system;
- establishes regional workforce development areas that reflect local labor markets and economic development areas, rather than political jurisdictions;
- thoughtfully merges those programs that are redundant but leaves in place programs that address the needs of unique populations, along with programs for disadvantaged adults, youth and dislocated workers. These and other programs are necessary for the continued success of the nation's workforce development system;
- provides local programs with significant flexibility, allowing service providers to meet the range of employment and training needs individuals might need without following prescribed steps or requirements; and
- strengthens the role of local business in the program, thereby ensuring that those creating jobs are at the center of this important program.

Our organizations have long supported the Workforce Investment Act and its predecessors. We believe that workforce development programs targeting those in need and providing them with the skills and access to in-demand jobs are necessary components of a successful workforce and economic development strategy.

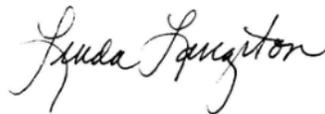
As a successor to WIA, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act would contribute substantially to the development of a national workforce development strategy that is aligned with economic development activities, can train and employ disadvantaged adults, dislocated workers and youth, and can meet the needs of business.

For these reasons, we support WIOA and urge every member of the House to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely yours,

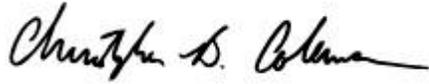


Kevin Johnson
Mayor of Sacramento, CA
President, The United States Conference of
Mayors (USCM)



Linda Langston
Supervisor, Linn County, IA
President, National Association of Counties
(NACo)

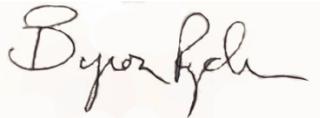
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Christopher Coleman
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President, National League of Cities (NLC)



Ron Painter
President and CEO, National Association of
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Byron Ryder
Judge, Leon County, Texas
Brazos Valley Council of Governments
President-elect, National Association of
Regional Councils (NARC)



Peter G. Gregory
Executive Director, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee
Regional Commission, Woodstock, VT
President, National Association of Development
Organizations (NADO)

CC: Members of Congress, United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC