

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 113<sup>th</sup> 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

9to5

ACT, Inc.

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Library Association (ALA)

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

Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy  
Georgetown Public Policy Institute  
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)  
Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA)  
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 Association for Lifelong Learning  
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  
Career Institute  
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.  
United Way of Northern Kentucky

*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*

JCDTOC, Inc.  
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  
Summit County Department of Job and Family Services  
The Summit and Medina County Workforce Investment Board  
Trumbull County Department of Job and Family Services/One Stop  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati  
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*

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  
Resource Workforce Investment Board  
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*

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