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 201510

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

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