



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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*Senator
Oregon
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June 6, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States Capitol H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Capitol S-221
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States Capitol H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Capitol S-230
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader Pelosi, & Minority Leader McConnell:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) commends congressional efforts to reach across the aisle and the Capitol with a long overdue reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). We urge you to pass H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), that will maintain collaboration between federal and state workforce systems.

Since the beginning of the 21st century it has become apparent and essential that we have a workforce system in place that provides workers with the training and skills America's employers need to ensure and sustain economic growth.

At the same time, these systems must also enable the unemployed, underemployed and other job seekers to attain economic self-sufficiency and career advancement. State legislators recognize that an improved workforce system must encompass workforce agencies, education, human services and economic development programs. In addition, WIOA seeks to help coordinate investment between all levels of government, private sector, labor unions and nonprofit/community based stakeholders.

WIOA presents an opportunity to address these issues and establish a comprehensive workforce system that meets the needs of a 21st century economy. NCSL approved a policy directive on WIA which is attached with recommendations to improve our nation's workforce system. Specifically these include a number of provisions we support in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):

- State discretion to establish and administer workforce development services should be maintained.

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- Flexibility on how funds can be used by states and the localities which deliver these services, as well as streamlined reporting to promote program and administrative efficiencies.
- Funding for One-Stops should be central to WIA appropriation and reauthorization (administrative and technological funding).

Thank you again for coming together to compromise on a bill to update our nation's workforce system. We urge you to pass this bill as soon as possible and look forward to continue working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Bruce Starr
Oregon Senate
President, NCSL



The Honorable Debbie Smith
Nevada Senate
President-Elect, NCSL

Cc: The Honorable Tom Harkin, *Chairman, Senate HELP Committee*
The Honorable John Kline, *Chairman, House Education & Workforce Committee*
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, *Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee*
The Honorable George Miller, *Ranking Member, House Education & Workforce Committee*
The Honorable Patty Murray, *Chairman, Senate Finance Committee & Member, Senate HELP Committee*
The Honorable Johnny Isakson, *Ranking Member, Senate HELP Subcommittee on Employment & Workplace Safety*
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, *Chairwoman, House Education & Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training*
The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa, *Ranking Member, House Education & Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training*