

May 30, 2014

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**The Honorable Thomas Harkin, Chairman
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable John Isakson
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate**

**The Honorable John Kline, Chairman
The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Member
The Honorable Virginia Foxx
The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa
Committee on Education and the Workforce
United States House of Representatives**

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), representing 1.6 million active and retired members, compliments you and your staff for reaching a bipartisan bicameral agreement on renewing and reforming the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a skillful balance between the views of the Senate and House of Representatives on the direction of federal workforce policy. It maintains the system's core programs, including the WIA adult and dislocated worker programs and the Wagner-Peyser employment services, but establishes new requirements for closer coordination of their operations and for joint planning in a single comprehensive plan. It also reduces the number of required State and local board members but ensures the continued representation of key stakeholders, including labor.

Like any hard-fought compromise, this legislation is not all that we would have wished. We are concerned that it will be hampered by inadequate funding. However, we believe that overall it has the potential to improve services for both workers and employers by strengthening accountability, aligning local workforce services with local labor markets and in-demand industries, creating closer coordination between the workforce and education systems, promoting services along career pathways and through industry or sector partnerships and providing for workforce staff training and professional development.

This legislation is the culmination of over 10 years of often difficult debate over how to reauthorize WIA. It is an impressive accomplishment and should be considered and passed by the Senate and House of Representatives as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles M. Loveless". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "L".

**Charles M. Loveless
Director of Federal Government Affairs**

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