



*Office of the Vice President
Governmental Programs*

*600 14th Street, Northwest, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005*

May 30, 2014

To the Members of the U.S. Senate:

On behalf of IBM, I would like to indicate our support for the improvements to the American Workforce Development System announced by the Bipartisan, Bicameral Group on May 21, 2014.

Among the key improvements in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are Changes to the Training and Employment Services that will increase the ability for incumbent workers and companies to use on-the-job training. The changes will enhance the competitiveness of workers and companies in the technology sector where skills are the key to success.

Specifically, the bill will support on-the-job, incumbent worker, and customized training, pay-for-performance contracts, sector and pathway strategies, and smaller, more nimble state and local workforce development boards.

Despite IBM's century-long commitment to training, IBM and our employees have not found the Workforce Investment Act's current programs of significant value. The programs are confusing, time-consuming to access, excessively bureaucratic, and of scarce value to incumbent workers and their employers.

Employee training has become a touchstone of IBM's culture since graduating its first class of sales professionals in 1916. Today we spend over a half billion dollars each year on training and development programs, one of the world's most significant commitments to employee learning. Our employees are expected to seek a minimum of 40 hours of professional development every year to continuously build the skills our clients value most.

Due to the critical need for improved real-world incumbent training, IBM supports the Bipartisan, Bicameral Agreement and urges its passage by the House and Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher A. Padilla'.

Christopher A. Padilla
Vice President, Governmental Programs