



444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 142, Washington, DC 20001  
202-434-8020 fax 202-434-8033 [www.naswa.org](http://www.naswa.org)

May 30, 2014

Senator Tom Harkin  
Chairman,  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions

Senator Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member,  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions

Representative John Kline  
Chairman,  
Committee on Education and  
the Workforce

Representative George Miller  
Ranking Minority Member,  
Committee on Education and  
the Workforce

Senator Patty Murray  
Chairman,  
Committee on the Budget

Senator Johnny Isakson  
Member,  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions

Representative Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman,  
Higher Education and Workforce  
Training Subcommittee  
House Committee on Education  
and the Workforce

Representative Ruben Hinojosa  
Ranking Member  
Higher Education and Workforce  
Training Subcommittee  
House Committee on Education  
and the Workforce

Dear Senators Harkin, Murray, Alexander, Isakson and Representatives Kline, Foxx, Miller, and Hinojosa:

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) joins the National Governors Association (NGA) in strongly supporting enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The legislation would modernize and improve existing federal workforce development programs, help workers attain skills for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, and foster the modern workforce critical for American businesses to remain competitive.

NASWA is pleased WIOA would:

- reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998;
- retain the 15 percent WIA state allocation authorization;
- retain and improve the Wagner-Peyser Act;
- streamline or eliminate existing programs, such as the Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF);
- restructure the Workforce Information Council (WIC);
- reduce the number of required members on state and local workforce boards;
- repeal the “sequence of services” provision; and
- apply common performance measures to all federal workforce programs.

Page 2  
May 30, 2014

At a time of sustained high and long-term unemployment in many communities, the WIOA would help workers gain skills and find jobs, and help employers hire the workers they need to meet the challenges of the economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. NASWA looks forward to Congress passing and the President signing WIOA as soon as possible. Thank you for your exceptional efforts on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "H" and a long tail on the "y".

Mark Henry  
NASWA President &  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Department of Employment Security