

May 29, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kline  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Miller  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

On behalf of the 19,000 cities and towns represented by the National League of Cities (NLC), I am writing to thank you for sponsoring the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (H.R. 803, as amended) and to inform you that NLC fully supports this bill, as written. It will provide much needed modernization and streamlining of the nation's workforce system and it will help every American who is out of work receive the training they need and the support they require to obtain employment.

There are a number of specific provisions that will allow cities and towns to help the unemployed in their communities:

- First, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act reaffirms the strong partnership between local elected officials, local business leaders and the local workforce development system.
- Second, it establishes regional workforce development areas that reflect local labor markets and economic development areas, rather than political jurisdictions.
- Third, it thoughtfully merges those programs that are redundant but leaves in place programs that address the needs of unique populations including YouthBuild and the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program, along with programs for disadvantaged adults, youth and dislocated workers. These and other programs are necessary for the continued success of the nation's workforce development system.
- Fourth, it would provide local programs with significant flexibility, allowing service providers to meet the range of employment and training needs individuals might need without following prescribed steps or requirements.



- Finally, it strengthens the role of local business in the program, thereby ensuring that those creating jobs are at the center of this important program.

The National League of Cities has long supported the Workforce Investment Act and its predecessors. NLC believes that workforce development programs targeting those in need and providing them with the skills and access to in-demand jobs are necessary components of a successful workforce development strategy.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act would contribute substantially to the development of a national workforce development strategy that can train and employ disadvantaged and dislocated workers and youth.

For these reasons we support this legislation and urge the Senate and House to move quickly to adopt this legislation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Carolyn Coleman, NLC's Director of Federal Advocacy (202-626-3023) if you need additional information.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher B. Coleman  
President, National League of Cities  
Mayor of Saint Paul, Minnesota

