



May 30, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Johnny 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 2.1 million members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), representing workers in healthcare, the public sector and property services, supports the recently announced bipartisan, bicameral Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). We thank you for your good faith efforts to work collaboratively to develop meaningful compromise legislation that will improve the lives of millions of people by offering workers the necessary training, education and employment services that will enable them to access quality jobs and gain a more secure foothold in the labor market.

A modern and accountable workforce development system, with a seat at the table for all stakeholders, is essential to meet the needs of the rapidly changing 21st century economy. While this compromise bill is not all that we would have wished, the final agreement modernizes the workforce development system, by focusing on building career pathways out of poverty in high growth, high demand and emerging sectors and industries. This will help to provide economic security not only for individual workers and their families, but will also strengthen the economy in local communities, as well as result in stronger regional, state, and national economies.

Importantly, the compromise legislation also maintains core programs and makes efforts to support state vocational rehabilitation services that are essential to opening doors to competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities.

SEIU supports passage and enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. If you have any questions, please contact Steph Sterling, Legislative Director, at (202) 730-7232.

Sincerely,

Peter Colavito
Director, Government Relations

PC:ST:lw

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