

May 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman, Health, Education Labor and Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin,

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities strongly supports the recently announced bi-cameral, bi-partisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization legislation. AUCD applauds the cooperative effort that produced the bill and hopes the Senate and House will continue this productive approach as the bill moves to the floor of both chambers.

The Workforce Investment Act has not been reauthorized since it was created in 1998. Your bill, a compromise between the House-passed SKILLS Act (H.R. 803) and Senate committee-approved Workforce Investment Act of 2013 (S. 1356), will improve employment opportunities and economic prospects for employment for all Americans, including those with disabilities.

AUCD is especially pleased with the strong emphasis on providing more training and other supports and services for youth with disabilities transitioning from school to work or postsecondary education. The unemployment rate of people with disabilities remains stubbornly high and many youth exiting school currently lack the specialized counseling and other supports needed to help them be successful in finding and keeping good jobs. The bill raises expectations for youth with disabilities and assists states to provide them with the supports they need to ensure success.

AUCD believes this compromise bill is a step in the right direction and should be supported. Thank you for your strong bi-partisan work on this effort. AUCD looks forward to working with both houses of Congress to move this legislation in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,



Andrew Imparato  
Executive Director, AUCD

1100 Wayne Avenue  
Suite 1000  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
t: 301-588-8252  
f: 301-588-2842  
www.aucd.org

Leslie Cohen, JD  
*President*

Olivia Raynor, PhD  
*President-Elect*

Julie Anne Fodor, PhD  
*Past-President*

A. Anthony Antosh, EdD  
*Past-Past President*

Karen Edwards, MD, MPH  
*Secretary*

Harold Kleinert, EdD  
*Treasurer*

Brent Askvig, PhD  
*Member at Large*

Cynthia Ellis, MD  
*Member at Large*

Celia Feinstein, MA  
*Member at Large*

Bruce Keisling, PhD  
*Member at Large*

Philip Wilson, PhD  
*Member at Large*

Shannon Caldwell  
*Council on Community Advocacy*

Dawn Olson, BS  
*Council on Community Advocacy*

Jody Pirtle, PhD  
*Council on Technology and Innovation  
in Interdisciplinary Service*

Kelly Roberts, PhD  
*Council on Research and Evaluation*

Thomas Uno, EdS  
*Multicultural Council*

Amy Sharp, PhD  
*Community Education and  
Dissemination Council*

Michelle Schladant, PhD  
*National Training Directors Council*

Andrew J. Imparato, JD  
*Executive Director*