

# National Association of Workforce Boards

Senator Tom Harkin  
731 Hart SOB  
Washington, DC 205 10

Senator Lamar Alexander  
455 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, DC 205 10

Senator Patty Murray  
448 Russell SOB  
Washington, DC 205 10

Senator Johnny Isakson  
131 Russell SOB  
Washington, DC 205 10

Congressman John Kline  
2439 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 205 15

Congressman George Miller  
2205 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 205 15

Congresswomen Virginia Foxx  
2350 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 205 15

Congressman Rubeen Hinojosa  
2262 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 205 15

## **RE: The National Association of Workforce Boards Support for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

The Board of the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) is pleased and gratified by the agreement reached between the Senate and the House regarding the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIA, which **is the nation's foundational legislation for responding to the changing skill needs of the U.S. labor market has long been due for re-authorization. NAWB is proud to support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) legislation and urges Congress to pass and for the President to sign WIOA so that local business-led workforce investment boards (WIBs) can continue to provide the guidance, support, and coordination to the nation's businesses and workforce.** NAWB encourages its members to do what they can to vigorously support the legislation's passage.

**We applaud this bicameral, bipartisan approach,** and we especially recognize the efforts of Senators Harkin, Alexander, Murray, and Isakson, as well as, Congressmen Kline, Congresswoman Foxx, and, Congressmen Miller and Hinojosa who worked to achieve the re-authorization. NAWB believes that local, business-led workforce investment boards have demonstrated their ability to solve labor market issues for the businesses and individuals in their local regions. They have done so through an increasing focus on labor market analysis, and through stronger collaboration among WIBs and economic development, education and community partners. We see the language in the WIOA as recognizing the work of local WIBs and placing new confidence in their abilities to meet the challenges ahead.

**We believe that WIOA can help assure that U.S. companies will remain competitive and grow jobs, that our domestic workforce has the guidance and pathways needed to obtain required skills, and that our communities have the resources to remain strong.**

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding assisted over 11 million people in the last program year to enter or re-enter the U.S. labor force by providing career counseling, skills assessments, financial assistance for occupational skills training, and job matching. Passage of the WIOA bill will allow the nation's workforce development system to continue this important work under updated legislation.

NAWB represents the nation's local business-led workforce investment boards and other stakeholders interested in advancing the skills of our nation's workforce as well as businesses' ability to grow by having the talent they need.

To learn more about the Workforce Investment Act in action, and to find the business-led workforce board near you, check out [www.WorkforceInvestmentWorks.com](http://www.WorkforceInvestmentWorks.com).

Sincerely,



Ronald D Painter, CEO