



May 29, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman  
Committee on Budget  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Employment and  
Workplace Safety  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Higher Education and  
Workforce Training  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Higher Education and  
Workforce Training  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander, Chairman Murray, Ranking Member Isakson, Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Miller, Chairwoman Foxx, and Ranking Member Hinojosa:

On behalf of the National Restaurant Association, we write in support of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (H.R. 803) (WIOA), and to thank you for your bipartisan and bicameral leadership on this issue. The WIOA will help employees and employers alike, by streamlining and enhancing our workforce development system and better orienting training toward the skills required in the current job market.

The National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant and food service industry. The industry is the nation's second-largest private-sector employer comprised of 990,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets employing 13.5 million people—about

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ten percent of the U.S. workforce. The industry provides millions of Americans with their first job and the critical skills training needed for a successful and rewarding career. In fact, one in three adults' first job experience is in a restaurant. Despite its size, small businesses dominate the industry; even larger chains are often collections of smaller franchised businesses.

As our nation continues to struggle with persistently high unemployment, job seekers are faced with a confusing and ineffective maze of job training programs. We support this legislation's focus on streamlining workforce training programs and providing workers more effective job training services. We also support the attention given to programs serving workers with limited basic education and English skills.

Again, thank you for bipartisan, bicameral effort on this critical issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this, and the many other vital issues facing our industry.

Sincerely,



Angelo I. Amador, Esq.  
Vice President  
Labor & Workforce Policy



Ryan P. Kearney  
Manager  
Labor & Workforce Policy

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce