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M E M O R A N D U M

To: Presidential Transition Team - Labor
From: Joan Wodiska, Director, Education, Early Childhood and Workforce Committee
Linda Lawson, Legislative Director
Re: Department of Labor Transition Team Meeting Follow-up

Below are the key workforce priorities for the nation's governors. Also below are links to additional supporting documentation.

Workforce Investment Act Programs:

- **Improve Access to Training:** Focus on up-skilling workers by eliminating prescribed sequence of services and rigid program eligibility criteria to give every worker access to training, education, and life-long learning opportunities.
- **Expand Funding Flexibility:** Provide governors with enhanced flexibility to coordinate and integrate workforce development funding to meet the unique needs of their states and communities.
- **Align Programs:** Facilitate the coordination and alignment of workforce, education, and economic development programs at the state and local level by eliminating redundant and conflicting oversight and regulations across federal agencies, including the Departments of Labor, Education, Human Services, and Commerce.
- **Shift Focus to State Sector Strategies and State-Led Partnerships:** Allow governors to integrate economic and workforce development initiatives through a governor-led, state-regional framework to better focus resources toward growth and emerging sectors.
- **Manage the Size and Membership of Workforce Boards:** Give governors the option to establish regional workforce boards to better align resources without the constraints of artificial or jurisdictional boundaries. Remove mandates that require certain members or minimum membership numbers for boards.
- **Eliminate Arbitrary Spending Requirements for Youth:** Follow governors lead to reform America's high schools and engage students through rigorous, relevant and diverse learning options. Governors developed a common high school graduation rate, implemented dual enrollment and early college high school programs, and upgraded and expanded career and technical education. The current federal youth funding constraints are outdated and out-of-touch with high school reform efforts.
- **Adopt NGA/NASWA Common Measures Proposal:** Improve accountability, transparency and reduce administrative costs by streamlining the current and overly complex system into four critical common measures focused on customer outcomes.

State Unemployment Insurance Trust Funds:

- Given the current economy, the nation's governors would like to discuss the unemployment program and state trust funds with the Department of Labor nominee. These issues will require thoughtful and immediate consideration in the new Administration.

The following documents are provided for as a resource for the Transition Team:

NGA Oral Presentation on Transforming Workforce Legislation:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0811WIAPRESENTATION.PDF>

NGA-NASWA Common Measure Proposal: Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0705WIAPROPOSAL.PDF>

State Sector Strategies: Regional Solutions to Worker and Employer Needs:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/06STATESECREG.PDF>

Aligning State Workforce Development and Economic Development Initiatives:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/NGA-NCEEWorkforce.pdf>

State Sector Strategies: Regional Solutions to Worker and Employer Needs:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/06STATESECREG.PDF>

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<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/NGA-NCEEWorkforce.pdf>

Accelerating State Adoption of Sector Strategies: An Eleven-State Project to Promote Regional Solutions to Worker and Employer Needs:

<http://www.skilledwork.org/pdfs/AcceleratingSectorStrategies-PhaseIReport.pdf>

Integrated Performance Information for Workforce Development:

<http://www.nga.org/files/pdf/0603IPIBLUEPRINT.pdf>

Innovation America: A Partnership:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0702INNOVATIONPARTNERSHIP.PDF>