



July 17, 2007

The Honorable Edward "Ted" M. Kennedy
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
Ranking Member, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Ranking Member, Committee on Education and
Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kennedy, Senator Enzi, Chairman Miller, and Representative McKeon:

As you develop legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), we urge you to incorporate the attached joint NGA-NASWA-State Workforce Board Chairs recommendations to continue developing WIA into the world-class federal-state-local workforce system vital to our nation's workers and businesses.

It has been almost a decade since Congress overhauled the workforce system to become a "one-stop" system. Today, new challenges confront our nation and challenge our economic position in the world. Much is at stake in this reauthorization. Without bold reforms to WIA, our workforce system will struggle to equip American workers with the skills necessary to remain competitive in the global economy.

Governors, state workforce administrators, and other state leaders developed joint WIA recommendations to help states and local communities create efficient, nimble, and coordinated workforce systems. The recommendations would significantly enhance program coordination and flexibility; align workforce, education, and economic development needs and strengths; enhance training services to workers; and reduce administrative costs. These four core principles should be central to WIA reauthorization.

The strength of America is our innovation, creativity, and hard work. We look forward to partnering with you to build a modern workforce system that can prepare our nation and workers to compete in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Chair, Education, Early Childhood and Workforce
Committee
National Governors Association

Governor M. Jodi Rell
Vice Chair, Education, Early Childhood and
Workforce Committee
National Governors Association

Roosevelt "Ted" Halley, President
National Association of State Workforce Agencies
Executive Director, South Carolina Employment
Security Commission

Charles Ware, Chair
National Association of State Workforce Board
Chairs
Chair, Wyoming Workforce Development Council

Attachment

cc: U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
U.S. House Education and Labor Committee