



*Mike Huckabee*  
Governor of Arkansas  
Chairman

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Governor of Arizona  
Vice Chair

*Raymond C. Scheppach*  
Executive Director

July 31, 2006

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

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

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

As you begin the process of reconciling the differences between S. 1021 and H.R. 27, we urge you to allow states to coordinate workforce system funds consistent with a plan developed by the National Governors Association (NGA Proposal). The NGA Proposal represents a middle-ground between the House and Senate bills by giving states and communities the necessary tools to truly achieve the vision of "one-stops" through the creation of a coordinated, nimble workforce system.

The NGA Proposal would:

- Expand state flexibility by providing governors with the option to coordinate two or more of the following programs only: WIA Dislocated Workers, Wagner-Peyser, WIA Adult, WIA Youth, and Adult Education.
- Encourage state and local flexibility by allowing states to pick and choose which programs to coordinate based on local and state needs, while preserving individual federal programs to help insulate against creation of a federal block grant or reduction in federal funds.
- Protect and enhance services for special populations, including people with disabilities by expanding their access to WIA one-stops.
- Develop common measures to increase accountability, focus on customer outcomes, and reduce administrative costs.

A unique and critical component of the NGA Proposal is the development and use of common measures to increase system-wide accountability, while significantly decreasing administrative costs and inefficiencies. The NGA Proposal streamlines the complex system of nearly 100 varying and incomparable performance measures into five critical measures focused on customer outcomes, including short-term and long-term employment rates, earnings, literacy and numeric gains, and credential completion.

The nation's governors share your concern and desire to ensure a skilled and competitive workforce for America's economic security. Action must be taken to develop a world-class federal-state-local workforce system deserving of America's workers and businesses. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is instrumental in this effort and must be modernized to reflect the new realities of the global economy.

Thank you for your consideration of the NGA Proposal. We look forward to further discussions with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Governor Tim Pawlenty  
Chair  
Education, Early Childhood,  
and Workforce Committee



Governor Chris Gregoire  
Vice Chair  
Education, Early Childhood,  
and Workforce Committee

cc: Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee  
House Education and the Workforce Committee