

Education, Workforce and Community Investment Task



Governor Albert Bryan
Co-Chair
Virgin Islands



Governor Brad Little
Co-Chair
Idaho

Members

Governor Kay Ivey
Alabama
Governor Jared Polis
Colorado
Governor Mike Parson
Missouri
Governor Tina Kotek
Oregon
Governor Dan McKee
Rhode Island
Governor Tony Evers
Wisconsin

NGA Staff

Tim Carlton
tcarlton@nga.org
202-624-5341

Mackenzi Matthews
mmatthews@nga.org
202-624-5306

OUR JURISDICTION

The Education, Workforce and Community Investment Task Force has organizational jurisdiction over a broad range of issues including Labor and Workforce Development, Career and Technical Skills, PreK-12 Education, Postsecondary Education, Criminal Justice, Housing, and Agriculture.

OUR PRIORITIES

Farm Bill Reauthorization, ensuring resiliency and rural revitalization;

Improve workforce housing supply and affordability;

Strengthen state and territorial unemployment insurance systems;

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization and strengthening the public workforce system; and

Support academic recovery efforts and state and territorial education financing.

OUR WORK

Governors Urge Congress to Pass Tax Measures, Including Proposals for Affordable Housing

In January 2024, Utah Governor Spencer Cox, the NGA Chair, and Colorado Governor Jared Polis, the Vice Chair, jointly issued a statement endorsing the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. This statement followed the introduction and House committee markup of the act, emphasizing its significance in promoting American innovation and competitiveness. The Governors highlighted the act's role in ensuring that residents and businesses receive essential resources after disasters and establishing a sustainable path to affordable housing options. This statement release aligns with a priority of the Task Force, focusing on enhancing the supply and affordability of workforce housing.

Governors Send Priorities to Reauthorize the Farm Bill to Congress

In September 2023, Task Force Co-Chairs Idaho Governor Brad Little and USVI Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. sent a letter to Congressional leaders. Their purpose was to articulate essential Farm Bill priorities deserving consideration and inclusion in the forthcoming authorization of the legislation. This comprehensive list of priorities spans across the twelve existing titles of the Farm Bill. It emerged from an exhaustive process involving consultation with Governors regarding their agricultural concerns, and it took into account insights from the Public Health and Disaster Response Task Force, particularly concerning nutritional priorities. The Task Force Co-Chairs underscored the significance of the upcoming Farm Bill as an opportunity for Congress to reaffirm its commitment to supporting the states and territories. They specifically emphasized the pivotal roles of rural and urban communities, farmers, ranchers, and individuals in need of food assistance.

Task Force Engagement on WIOA Reauthorization

The NGA Task Force staff have continued to advocate for the Task Force priority to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and strengthening the public workforce system. This has involved advocating for the Task Force priority with Congress, crafting a website that covers state and territory WIOA Title I allocations since 2014, and working with the U.S. Department of Labor on WIOA state planning.

Sending Funding Priorities to Congress

In May 2023, the Task Force wrote to House and Senate Appropriators expressing support for funding priorities that fall within its jurisdiction. Those priorities include funding for programs within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and funding for apprenticeships. The funding request also called for continued investment in state and local law enforcement programs, affordable housing programs, farm bill and rural development programs, as well as the need to modernize state unemployment insurance systems and make them more resilient to economic downturns.

2023 NGA Winter Meeting Task Force Session on Academic and Career Success

In February 2023, the Task Force held a session during the NGA Winter Meeting led by Task Force Co-Chair Idaho Governor Brad Little and Colorado Governor Jared Polis. The focus was on how Governors are collaborating to address the current needs of students, ensuring they are well-prepared for successful careers in the future. Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee and Oregon Governor Tina Kotek were among the participants in the discussion, joined by panelists Lydia Logan, VP of Global Education & Workforce Development at IBM; Mark Schneider, Director of ED Institute of Education Sciences; and Sara Wolforth, Policy Principal at AIR.