



SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your members of Congress to support reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) during the 113th Congress. NADO supports a Workforce Investment Act that promotes flexibility and improvements at the state and local levels, is responsive to local economic and business needs, and ensures U.S. workers and businesses have the skills and training needed to compete in a global economy.

BACKGROUND: In 1998, Congress established a network for the nation's workforce development system under WIA. The law replaced a number of existing training programs with state formula grants and created a nationwide network of locally administered "one-stop" centers where both workers and employers could access training, employment, and support programs administered through the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and other agencies, such as the U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS). Administered at the federal level by DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), WIA is the largest single source of federal funding for workforce development activities. WIA expired in 2003 and is due for reauthorization.

Most critical to local governments is Title I of WIA, which authorizes the service delivery system and calls for coordination among all levels of government. Title I is the "core" of WIA, establishing the infrastructure through which all public funding related to workforce development flows and is coordinated.

LATEST ACTION: On March 15, the U.S. House passed the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Learning (SKILLS) Act (H.R. 803) by a vote of 215 to 202. Introduced by Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV), and Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), this bill reauthorizes WIA by consolidating 35 existing federal employment and training programs into a single \$6 billion Workforce Investment Fund.

NADO opposes provisions in H.R. 803 that weaken the important role of local stakeholders in the administration of workforce development activities and would reduce access to education and training for millions of American workers. **NADO supports passage of a bi-partisan workforce development bill this year** and urges Congress to address concerns in H.R. 803 surrounding local area designation, training funding mechanisms, and program consolidation.

On July 31, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved by a vote of 18 to 3 the Workforce Investment Act of 2013 (S. 1356). The Senate WIA bill closely resembles a draft bill circulated by the HELP Committee in 2011. S. 1356 maintains the current governance structure of WIA programs, requires coordinated plans, and establishes performance measures for core programs.

KEY TALKING POINTS:

- **Urge your Members of Congress to support the reauthorization of WIA during the 113th Congress.** NADO supports enactment of bipartisan legislation that is responsive to the needs of our communities, citizens, and businesses and ensures U.S. workers and businesses have the skills and training needed to compete in a global economy.
- **The economy has changed dramatically since WIA was became law in 1998.** Given the vast changes

NADO FACT SHEET: Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization

in economic conditions that have occurred over the last several years, it is important that Congress act to modernize the nation's workforce development system to ensure that individuals at all skill levels are able to obtain the training and education they need to secure and keep jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency, while also ensuring that businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need to compete in a global economy.

- **Federal workforce programs are effective.** Last year, more than 9 million individuals received training and related services supported under Title I of WIA, an increase of nearly 250 percent in just two years. More than half of those who utilized these services found employment in a difficult labor market.
- **Local elected officials play a critical role in the administration of WIA.** The leadership role of elected officials is essential in maximizing WIA's impact in state and local jurisdictions through collaboration with state and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and setting policy for the workforce system to achieve broader community and economic development goals.

For more information, please contact Susan Howard, Legislative Director, at 202.624.8590 / showard@nado.org or Ted Stiger, Legislative Associate, at 202.624.8467 / tstiger@nado.org.

U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

Majority:

Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chair
Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
Patty Murray (D-WA)*
Bernard Sanders (D-VT)
Bob Casey (D-PA)
Kay Hagen (D-NC)*
Al Franken (D-MN)
Michael Bennet (D-CO)*
Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)*
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

Minority:

Lamar Alexander (R-TN), *Ranking Member*
Mike Enzi (R-WY)*
Richard Burr (R-NC)
Johnny Isakson (R-GA)
Rand Paul (R-KY)
Orin Hatch (R-UT)*
Pat Roberts (R-KS)
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Mark Kirk (R-IL)*
Tim Scott (R-SC)

**Indicates Senator serves on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety*

U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee

Majority:

John Kline (R-MN), Chairman
Thomas Petri (R-WI)*
Buck McKeon (R-CA)*
Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Virginia Foxx (R-NC)*+
Tom Price (R-GA)
Kenny Marchant (R-TX)
Duncan Hunter (R-CA)
David Roe (R-TN)
Glenn Thompson (R-PA)*
Tim Walberg (R-MI)*
Matt Salmon (R-AZ)*
Brett Guthrie (R-KY)*
Scott DesJarlais (R-TN)
Todd Rokita (R-IN)
Larry Bucshon (R-IN)
Trey Gowdy (R-SC)
Lou Barletta (R-PA)*
Martha Roby (R-AL)
Joe Heck (R-NV)*
Susan Brooks (R-IN)*
Richard Hudson (R-NC)*
Luke Messer (R-IN)*

Minority:

George Miller (D-CA), *Ranking Member*
Robert Andrews (D-NJ)
Bobby Scott (D-VA)
Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX)*#
Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)*
John Tierney (D-MA)*
Rush Holt (D-NJ)*
Susan Davis (D-CA)*
Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
Tim Bishop (D-NY)
David Loebsack (D-IA)*
Joe Courtney (D-CT)
Marcia Fudge (D-OH)
Jared Polis (D-CO)
Gregorio Sablan (D-MP)
John Yarmuth (D-KY)*
Frederica Wilson (D-FL)
Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)*

+Indicates Chair of the U.S. House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training

#Indicates Ranking Member of the U.S. House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training

**Indicates Representative serves on the U.S. House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training*