

The National Association of Workforce Boards Supports the Senate and House Agreement on Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act

Washington, DC - The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) announces its support of the recently introduced bill H.R. 803, the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA). In a letter to the sponsoring Congress Members on May 27, 2014, NAWB applauded the bicameral, bipartisan approach to the bill, which represents a re-authorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA). WIA, the nation's foundational legislation for responding to the changing skill needs of the U.S. labor market, has been due for re-authorization since 2003. The [letter of support](#) urges Congress to pass and the President to sign the new legislation, so that local, business-led workforce investment boards (WIBs) can continue to provide the guidance, support, and coordination to the nation's businesses and workforce. NAWB has also encouraged its members to vigorously support the legislation's passage.

"NAWB believes that local, business-led workforce investment boards have demonstrated their ability to solve labor market issues for the businesses and individuals in their local regions. They have done so through an increasing focus on labor market analysis, and through stronger collaboration among WIBs and economic development, education and community partners," said NAWB CEO Ron Painter. "The WIOA recognizes the prior work of local WIBs and places new confidence in their abilities to meet the challenges ahead. WIOA helps assure that U.S. companies will remain competitive and grow jobs, that our domestic workforce has the guidance and pathways needed to obtain required skills, and that our communities have the resources to remain strong."

Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding provided career counseling, skills assessments, financial assistance for occupational skills training, and job matching to over 20 million people in the U.S. last year. WIA provides services to a broad range of individuals and businesses through the network of roughly 2500 American Job Centers across the U.S. and its Territories, including veterans, dislocated workers, youth, older workers, and individuals transitioning from public assistance to work. Passage of the WIOA bill will allow the nation's workforce development system to continue this important work under updated legislation.

To learn more about the Workforce Investment Act in action, and to find the business-led workforce board near you, check out www.WorkforceInvestmentWorks.com.

NAWB represents the nation's local business-led workforce investment boards and other stakeholders interested in advancing the skills of our nation's workforce and businesses' ability to grow by having the talent they need. www.nawb.org

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