



July 8, 2014

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), which represent the nation's more than 1,100 community college presidents and their trustees, we write in support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which may come to the House floor this week. We urge you to vote for H.R. 803.

Workforce development is at the core of our members' mission, and as such reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act has long been a priority for our associations. Community colleges play a leading role in providing workers with the skills they need in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy at all stages in their careers and educational development. We are hopeful that the improvements made to the workforce development system in WIOA will enhance the partnership between our colleges and the workforce system, and that this reauthorization will provide the impetus towards improved funding for these vital programs.

We are pleased to see many elements of this bill align with our priorities for reauthorization. Community colleges strongly support the steps that have been taken in this legislation to align the various components of the workforce system and refocus their efforts on the attainment of postsecondary credentials. AACC and ACCT support the inclusion of common performance indicators across programs, as well as greater emphasis on the transition to postsecondary education in the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

Additionally, we support provisions in the bill that call for integrated delivery of basic skills and occupational instruction. AACC and ACCT continue to support these career pathway models, as well as the bill's emphasis on sector partnerships. We are also pleased that the bill formally eliminates the sequence of services in favor of an integrated career services category. Since FY 2010, funding for workforce and adult education programs under WIA has declined significantly. While the authorization levels under WIOA uphold some of these reductions in the near-term, it also provides for a much needed yearly increase in authorization levels.

H.R. 803, as amended, is a bicameral, bipartisan bill that will better align the federal workforce system and ultimately better serve workers seeking new or improved employment opportunities. Thank you for considering our views on this matter and your vote in favor of H.R. 803.

Walter G. Bumphus  
AACC President and CEO

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