



The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Education and Labor Committee
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

The undersigned organizations make up the United States Workforce Associations (USWA), a collaborative effort of local workforce boards, businesses, educational institutions, and organizations involved in workforce and economic development activities across the country. These organizations are directly involved in the implementation of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, specifically promoting the successful execution by local workforce boards to serve businesses, employers, and job - and career-seekers. As the Education and Labor Committee considers its portion of the Build Back Better Act, we strongly support the workforce development and education investments and urge the Committee to approve the legislation and send it to the full House of Representatives.

The funding proposal invests in the existing workforce development system which will ensure that funding quickly gets to the local level where it can be intentionally directed to needs of businesses and job seekers. The challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic justify additional funding for these federal programs at this moment and beyond. Workers, especially low wage and low skill are struggling to re-connect to a changing economy. The transformations seen before the pandemic, like automation, have accelerated, threatening to leave vulnerable populations behind.

The workforce development system convenes sector partnerships across the country to empower businesses to develop the skilled training needed to succeed in career pathways that lead to better jobs and higher wages. These strategies can be scaled and enhanced through the investments in the Build Back Better Act.

Businesses are struggling to hire skilled workers, further impacting our competitiveness in a global marketplace. Workers need greater supports to get a job and keep that job - WIOA is the most efficient mechanism to balance those situations as the funding is connected to individuals enrolling in job training or employment.

Congress has provided unprecedented relief to workers and businesses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The workforce development funding in the Build Back Better Act is a key signal that our country has a strategy for confronting these complicated challenges using a system designed to accomplish that task.

We appreciate the Committee's commitment to providing greater opportunities to workers and access to talent for businesses.

Sincerely,



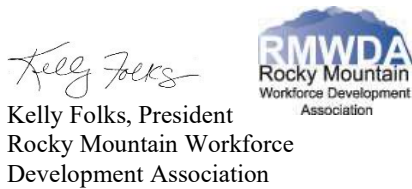
Bob Lanter
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Jennifer Meek Eels
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Ohio Workforce Association



Kelly Folks, President
Rocky Mountain Workforce
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Michelle Cerutti, President
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Rodney Carson
President
North Carolina Association of
Workforce Development Boards



Mari Kay-Nabozny
Chief Executive Officer
Northwest Wisconsin Workforce
Investment Board, Inc.



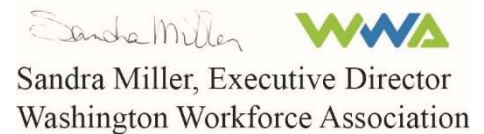
Tonja Mettlach, Executive Director
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Michelle Day, President
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Heather Ficht, Chair
Oregon Workforce Partnership



Sandra Miller, Executive Director
Washington Workforce Association



Robin King, President
Florida Workforce Development Association



Teri Drew, Chairman
Arizona Workforce Association



Jeanna Fortney, Director
Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards



Angela Carr Klitzsch, Chair
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Carrie Amann, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association

Morgan Romeo



Morgan Romeo
Chair, Virginia Association of Workforce Directors



Kevin J. Kurdziel

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