



FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Texas Association of Workforce Board (TAWB) represents the 28 local workforce development boards in Texas and the more than 700 business and community leaders from communities across Texas who serve on those boards. The hands-on business and workforce development expertise of its board representative members uniquely positions TAWB and its member representatives to advise on education, training and workforce development policies for the state's incumbent and emerging workforce and to assist in building a true employer driven workforce development system.

Priorities for the 114th United States Congress

The Texas Association of Workforce Board Supports:

Full funding for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), including:

- funding for WIOA Title I to the levels agreed upon in the original bill, which would mean a 6% increase in funding for Title I from FY2016
- full funding for workforce and career and technical education, including funding Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act state grants at \$3 billion and Perkins CTE state grants at \$1.3 billion

Reauthorization of the Carl Perkins Career and Vocational Technical Education Act, including:

- measures that promote better coordination between community colleges and Workforce Development Boards on employer engagement
- policies that enhance regional planning, curriculum portability and responsiveness to the needs of business in curriculum development

Passage of the Community College to Career Fund Act (S.2222, H.R. 3862) to provide dedicated support for partnerships between industry and community colleges

Reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program, including

- a loosening of policies that restrict TANF participants entering into skills training and education
- alignment with WIOA Title I programs in regards to transitional subsidized employment funding and strategy

Opening Doors for Youth Initiative proposed by President Obama to:

- target job and skill training opportunities for youth
- target regional partnerships to train workers to meet local employers' demand, and a new system of career navigators to work with the long-term unemployed

Continued Investment in Expanding Apprenticeships, including:

- reinvesting \$90 million, consistent with FY 2016 funding levels, funding the President's Apprenticeship Training Fund
- continued investment in the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations program

Funding for Title III Wagner-Peyser Employment Services at no less than \$680 million, consistent with the President's FY 2017 budget request

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), including:

- passage of the JOBS Act (S. 1900, H.R. 3986) to expand Pell eligibility to short-term postsecondary certificates
- passage of the Student Right to Know Before You Go Act (S. 1195, H.R. 2518) to provide better information about post-college workforce results

Funding for Adult Basic Education/ESL at double the current level for adult education in the FY 2017 budget by increasing funding for WIOA Title II to \$1.2 billion.

Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning Initiatives, including:

- legislation redirecting the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to support apprenticeship and other work-based learning

Updated federal regulation on instruction practices of Licensed Occupations

Efforts to fund state workforce programs through Federal Block Grants with maximum flexibility on the use of the funds