



TALKING POINTS

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

Background

The bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) encompasses the nation's primary programs and investments in employment services, workforce development, adult education and rehabilitation activities. WIOA replaces the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), reauthorizes the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act of 2003, amends the Wagner Peyser Act of 1933, and amends and reauthorizes various sections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. One of the most critical changes to WIOA from its predecessor WIA is recognizing the employer as a customer with needs equal to those of workers and jobseekers. This opens the door to being able to invest resources in new ways to engage employers and is sure to make the workforce system more relevant to employers.

Key Messages

- For the U.S. to remain competitive in the global marketplace, we must invest in our workforce; economic competitiveness begins and ends with worker training, education and deployment.
- Workforce Development is an economic program that, in the process of helping businesses grow, can affect deeper societal issues.
- Local Workforce Boards promote business growth and economic opportunity in America by expediting talent matching and providing access to training programs that address skill gaps.
- Congressional and Administration proposals that increase funding for worker training initiatives will help business and economic growth, and decrease the human and economic cost of unemployment across the country.

Statement of Support

The Texas Association of Workforce Board Supports full funding for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), including:

- Funding for WIOA Title I (job training) programs to the levels agreed upon in the original bill, which would mean a 6% increase in funding for Title I from FY2016.
- Funding for WIOA Title II (adult education) programs at their authorized levels.
- Funding for WIOA Title III (Wagner-Peyser Employment Services) at \$680 million, as included in the administration's FY 2017 budget request, to give states necessary, additional resources to provide WIOA's intensive reemployment services while implementing the new law.