Re: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) - SUPPORT

On behalf of the National Metro Business Alliance (NMBA), an association of 18 regional business associations representing major metropolitan areas across the country that value innovation, entrepreneurship and the facilitation of a knowledge economy and accounting for more than 35 percent of U.S. GDP, we write in support of the re-authorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) and the bicameral/bipartisan effort that has resulted in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA, H.R. 803).

The members of NMBA are committed to robust economies anchored by healthy businesses which create and sustain good jobs. A skilled and competitive workforce is critical for our businesses and for our communities. Local employer-led workforce investment boards are a valued partner in these endeavors.

We see the value in bringing business, civic, education, workforce development and philanthropic leaders together to leverage the collective and individual assets of these systemic partners to create pathways to high demand, high growth industries, and sustainable careers to ensure the economic competitiveness of our regions. We also know from experience that locally crafted solutions developed in collaboration among organizations like chambers of commerce and economic development and business-led workforce investment boards is the best approach.

We offer our support for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in particular noting the continued leadership role of business, the clear language that promotes alignment of investments in education and training, and the increasing focus on outcomes. We look forward to working with Senate and House leaders to enact the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The work of local business-led workforce investment boards in helping chart our regions’ workforce development strategy is critical to the success of the efforts of thousands of local chambers, our business volunteers and our partnerships with local workforce investment boards, in supporting the views expressed in this correspondence are supported by the signatories at the bottom of this letter. National Metro Business Alliance partners not included as signatories are not necessarily party to the views expressed herein.
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