



Sent via Fax (202) 224-0357

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March 4, 2011

Senator Barbara Boxer  
 United States Senate  
 312 N. Spring Street, Suite 1748  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support of Workforce Investment Act Programs

Dear Senator Boxer,

As you are aware, the House recently passed H.R. 1, the fiscal year 2011 Continuing Resolution. This bill eliminates all funding, over \$3.6 billion, for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in Program Year 2011 and a \$175 million rescission of prior year funds. Beginning July 1, 2011, these cuts will eliminate all new funding for state and local programs under WIA, including the City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) workforce development system.

With a current local unemployment rate of 14%, these cuts will have a devastating effect on the City of Los Angeles.

In the 2010-2011 program year, the WIB's workforce development system:

- Served 171,000 jobseekers through an 18 one-stop center network
- Assisted over 5,700 workers who were laid off
- Placed 15,700 youth in either paid work experience, summer jobs, or internships
- Assisted over 1,400 businesses in meeting staffing needs and recruitments

For the past decade, the WIB has worked hard to craft and cultivate a workforce development system that provides critical workforce training programs, job placement and business support. This system creatively leverages federal funding to attract other grants, local funding, and use existing infrastructure. The WIB has played the role of convener to facilitate partnerships between local industries and the local community college system to create new sector training programs that fulfill employer needs in sectors that are still growing. This saves businesses money and contributes to our region's economic growth and prosperity.



The WIB and its system have been at the forefront of a variety of initiatives including Cash For College, which annually links 13,000 youth to college opportunities, and local high school dropout recovery efforts to reduce Los Angeles' large disconnected youth population.

California's slow road to economic recovery means we can hardly afford to turn our backs on our citizens - and your constituents - at this crucial time.

We commend Congressional efforts to reduce the structural budget deficit that impairs our country and its economy. But during this process, we ask Congress to consider saving the programs that facilitate and stimulate job growth. We believe the Workforce Investment Act is one of those programs. WIA programs have made a substantial positive impact to our community.

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board, I urge your support and leadership to prevent the elimination of funding for the Workforce Investment Act.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Woo".

CHARLES WOO, Chair  
City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board