

## **BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WORKFORCE SYSTEM**

1. **WHEREAS**, in order for the United States to be competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy, a significant investment must be made in the public education and job training systems of this country; and
2. **WHEREAS**, preparing a highly skilled workforce is essential to the economic strength of cities and necessary in order to remain competitive in the global market; and
3. **WHEREAS**, education and training are essential to having a trained and skilled workforce, but the linkage between the two systems does not always occur at the local level; and
4. **WHEREAS**, local government together with the business community and the workforce and education systems must identify strategies needed to address the skills requirements demanded by the local labor market; and
5. **WHEREAS**, comprehensive skills training and education strategies must be part of a local job training system that aligns with the labor market demands of local economies where business - the end user of the system - is located; and
6. **WHEREAS**, the current local job training delivery system serves the needs of training for individuals and businesses through the local workforce investment boards (WIBs) and local One Stop Centers; and
7. **WHEREAS**, the community college system is part of the comprehensive locally driven, private sector-led workforce investment system overseen by local Workforce Investment Boards appointed by local elected officials with authority for the design, implementation and oversight of workforce strategies and programs, and as a key partner, community colleges have shared responsibility for supporting One Stop infrastructure; and
8. **WHEREAS**, the Administration has been promoting a policy to directly fund the community college system

for job training outside of the local public workforce system, which has been opposed by Congress; and

9. **WHEREAS**, the current federal restrictions on training do not allow for a variety of training tools and strategies necessary for individuals to gain skills to advance beyond entry level positions; and
10. **WHEREAS**, local business and industry need the services provided by the job training system to fill labor gaps and vacancies because more than half of all American workers are employed at small businesses, which can rarely afford to provide training opportunities, and, therefore, rely on the local job training system to do so; and
11. **WHEREAS**, according to the General Accountability Office (GAO) 75 percent of large businesses utilize services through their local One Stop Centers, have a 77 percent satisfaction rate for the services they received, and would recommend to other businesses using the local job training system, and over 50 percent of small businesses use One Stop Centers to obtain and train their workforce; and
12. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has several business and industry initiatives, yet it does not have data that reflects the extent to which employers use the local job training system; and
13. **WHEREAS**, the required data collected by the job training system at the local level does not accurately reflect all of the services that are provided through the One Stop Centers, thus creating the perception that fewer customers - individuals and business - are served; and
14. **WHEREAS**, across the country there is a disparity between the investment of mandatory partners in the job training system, which can lead to inconsistency in local job training effectiveness; and
15. **WHEREAS**, the Administration has proposed for a third year to consolidate and cut formula funding for all job training programs - Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, and Wagner-Peyser (Employment Service) - into a block grant to states,

16. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to fully fund all job training and related education programs at a minimum of FY 2002 levels; and
17. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enhance the effectiveness and integration of the education and job training systems at the local level through the reauthorizations of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Perkins Vocational Technical Education Act, the Higher Education Act, No Child Left Behind Act and other related legislation; and
18. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that strong local authority and flexibility for local elected officials and their Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) remain at the core of any job training legislation, especially in the reauthorization of WIA; and
19. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that if WIA reauthorization legislation contains consolidation or any changes to local authority and resources, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any legislation including a block grant must, at a minimum, devolve control to the local workforce investment area rather than to the state and retain at least current funding levels for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs; and
20. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the reauthorization of workforce legislation, The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to implement the same funding structure system as that utilized for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which provides funding directly to cities, counties and to the state for areas under 50,000 in population; and
21. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to provide local areas the capacity and flexibility to design workforce systems that meet the needs of the target population and employers, including sectoral initiatives and customized training; and

22. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the full integration of services and partners at the local level through the local One Stop Centers, where the services are offered to businesses and individuals; and
23. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for Congress, when funding community colleges for job training, to ensure that the funding go through the local WIB that supports the local One Stop infrastructure; and
24. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to understand the unique needs of displaced workers, economically disadvantaged adults and youth, in- and out-of-school, at risk youth, and aging workers and provide the resources and ability to target services and strategies to meet their needs in attaining education and job skills training; and
25. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for allowing the lengthening of federally funded training and education programs to ensure that individuals receive adequate skills not only to become self sufficient, but also to provide the ability to move into a career and up a career ladder toward self sufficiency; and
26. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the establishment of a comprehensive real time data collection system from the local, state and federal levels to ensure an accurate picture is portrayed of training and services provided to individuals and business.

Projected Cost: Unknown