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JOBS, EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE STANDING COMMITTEE

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CREATING JOBS AND REDUCING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN METRO AREAS

WHEREAS, metropolitan areas have long been the engines of US economic growth over the previous decades, they have been hard hit by the recent recession which has left them with rapidly rising unemployment and declining revenues; and

WHEREAS, because local governments are prohibited by law from carrying a budget deficit, they have been forced to make severe cuts in critical public services such as police officers, fire fighters, teachers, medical and emergency workers and bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, there was a net loss of 4.16 million jobs last year sending the national unemployment rate from 7.7 percent to over 10 percent; and while unemployment rates seem to have peaked in the first quarter of 2010 averaging 10.2 percent between January-March, they remain drastically high in some regions-- topping 15 percent in 20 metro areas, 12 percent in 74 metro areas and 10 percent in 135 metro areas; and among the 25 areas with the highest unemployment rate in the country, eleven are in California, seven in Michigan and two in Illinois and Florida; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or the so called stimulus package has been successful in creating jobs nationally, unemployment rates have skyrocketed in many metro areas reaching 18 percent in Modesto, CA; 16.4 percent in Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI; 12.4 percent in Toledo, OH and 12.3 percent in Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL; and

WHEREAS, during a time when critical local services have suffered from huge budget cuts, ARRA provided very little direct aid to local governments to help them with their budget shortfalls and avoid further layoffs; and

WHEREAS, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller worked closely with the leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors in crafting the Local Jobs for America Act, which would provide direct aid to local governments to help them avoid further layoffs of critical workers and hire new workers to help put America back to work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the President to pass HR 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act which will provide \$75 billion over two years in direct funding to cities with populations over 50,000 to put millions of people to work by restoring services in local communities, in both public and private sector jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges support for investments in our metro areas to improve infrastructures that have been under-funded relative to the reasonable measures of their economic contributions. Close attention must be paid to the relationship between the economic health of our nation's metro areas and the health of the nation as a whole. The national economy can recover more quickly by more directly delegating federal funds to cities and their metro economies.

CREATION OF A NATIONAL ECONOMIC RESTORATION AND COUNTERCYCLICAL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, many recessions or economic downturns within the national economy over the past forty years have been regional in nature; and

WHEREAS, economic recovery following national recessions and regional downturns vary dramatically from metro to metro, with many cities facing slower recoveries as measured by GMP growth and job creation; and

WHEREAS, according to The U.S. Conference of Mayors in its recently released report, "U.S. Metro Economies-- Pace of Economic Recovery: GMP and Jobs (January 2010), U.S. metro area unemployment will remain painfully high, with over 105 metros having more than 10% unemployment by the end of 2011; and 117 metros, almost one-third, having more than 8% unemployment by the end of 2013; and

WHEREAS, according to a survey conducted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors in October of 2009, many cities face much higher unemployment rates and numbers of unemployed compared to their larger metro areas; and

WHEREAS, a large number of metros will remain in recession or will not regain their pre-recession levels of employment until well beyond 2015,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to create a National Economic Restoration and Countercyclical Program that would automatically make funds available to metro areas or select jurisdictions within such areas, that are in recession or have persistently high rates of unemployment; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the program fund infrastructure development, modern transportation facilities, economic development initiatives, and job creation incentives, subject to approval of a local/regional economic restoration plan submitted by cities, approved by the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration in consultation with the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and the Department of Labor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce determine annually which cities and metro areas qualify to receive such funding by meeting the economic distress criteria as established in the authorizing legislation.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

WHEREAS, in many U.S. cities, fewer than two-thirds of the ninth graders go on to earn a high school diploma, and less than a quarter ultimately earn a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, on recent international tests, American 15-year olds scored 24th out of 29 developed nations in math and 17th in science; and

WHEREAS, a generation ago the U.S. ranked first in the world in the rate of college completion for 25- to 34-year olds, but the nation is falling behind and now ranks 10th; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the Conference endorsed the President's comprehensive plan for public education, with a focus on (1) early childhood education, (2) reform, innovation, and investment in elementary and secondary education, and (3) restoring America's leadership in higher education; and

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to reform No Child Left Behind, the most recent version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

WHEREAS, the President released his Blueprint for Reform of the Act in March 2010, emphasizing three major goals for reauthorization: (1) raise standards, (2) reward excellence and student academic growth, and (3) increase local control and flexibility while maintaining focus on equity and closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan has worked closely with the Conference and individual mayors in diverse cities across the nation to promote a joint strategy for advancing student success and closing the achievement gap, and the President's Blueprint for Reform is tightly aligned with adopted Conference policies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the President's Blueprint for Reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following ESEA reauthorization policy priorities:

- Setting a national goal that every student should graduate from high school ready for college and a career, regardless of income, race, ethnic or language background, or disability status.
- Developing and using a new generation of assessments aligned with higher standards, capturing higher-order skills and deeper learning, to provide more accurate measures of student growth and better inform classroom instruction.

- Ensuring a more complete, well-rounded education for students to contribute in our democracy and thrive in a global economy, from literacy, mathematics, science, and technology to history, civics, foreign languages, the arts, and other subjects.
- Supporting ambitious efforts to recruit, place, reward, retain, and promote effective teachers and principals, and to enhance the profession of teaching by recognizing, encouraging, and rewarding excellence.
- Improving access to effective teachers and principals for students in high-poverty, high-minority urban schools.
- Investing in more effective pathways and practices for preparing, placing, and supporting beginning teachers and principals, especially in high need schools.
- Taking steps to ensure equity, including comparability in resources between high- and low-poverty schools.
- Continuing the incentives for systemic reforms first promulgated in Race to the Top, and allowing local school districts to take on bold, comprehensive reforms even in the absence of an effective state application.
- Supporting the expansion of high-performing public charter schools and other autonomous or mayorally-chartered public schools.
- Increasing access to a challenging high school curriculum, including college-level, dual-credit, and other accelerated courses.
- Streamlining funding streams to promote student success and innovation, and to provide greater flexibility to successful local schools.
- Promoting schools as centers of their communities and investing in models that keep students safe, supported, and healthy both in and out of school.

**ESEA REAUTHORIZATION – SUPPORTING AFTERSCHOOL AND THE
EDUCATION OF THE WHOLE CHILD**

WHEREAS, Congress is preparing to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

WHEREAS, before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs provide critical supports to students and their families and contribute to educating the whole child; and

WHEREAS, communities like ours rely on the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program (21st CCLC) as an essential source of afterschool program funding that leverages a wide array of funding—local, state and private—as well as partners, including faith-based organizations, nonprofits, businesses, educational organizations and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, as mayors working in cities all over the nation, we understand how critical this program is to providing support for more than 1 million children in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. A wealth of research and data demonstrates that these programs help children academically, socially and behaviorally; and

WHEREAS, despite the demand for and success of afterschool programs, on any given day more than 15 million children are unsupervised afterschool and more than 18 million would be in programs if they were available and affordable. Now is the time to expand access for more of our most at-risk students, not divert much needed afterschool funding to create new programs that will result in even more children home alone; and

WHEREAS, during the hours of 3 PM to 6 PM when children are most at risk for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex, afterschool programs have a proven record of keeping children safe; and

WHEREAS, working families also reap the benefits from afterschool programs; parents who are concerned about their children being unattended after the school day ends miss an average of eight days of work per year. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about afterschool care costs businesses up to \$300 billion per year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors thanks Congress for its continued strong, bipartisan support for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to protect and expand afterschool funding and oppose any cuts to this much needed program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that rather than divert existing 21st Century Community Learning Center funding to other uses, ESEA should provide separate and enhanced funding streams for:

- The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program;
- Full Service Community Schools; and
- Expanding the school day or year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current law should be maintained which provides funds for the 21st CCLC program by formula to the states and District of Columbia, with each State Education Agency (SEA) running a competitive grant program in which local education agencies (LEA), community-based organizations or faith-based organizations can be the lead entity. All grant applications should require school/community partnerships and a strong alignment between the community-based organization and the school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that flexibility for the 21st CCLC program be maintained to allow local communities to determine whether the programming occurs at school, at non-school community-based facilities or a combination of locations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to ensure that the many lessons learned by the afterschool community over the past decade help inform school reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to look at afterschool partners when designing school reform models. Afterschool programs are able to tap into the best of the community – colleges, museums, scientists, artists, musicians, volunteers, libraries and youth development workers – to teach our children the critical workforce skills and connect their passions to learning.

BUILDING A NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

WHEREAS, all of the basic elements that are important for comprehensive youth development – educational attainment, after school enrichment, summer and other work experience opportunities, career exploration, mentoring, health services, juvenile justice initiatives, etc. – are typically addressed independently of one another by existing governmental and not-for-profit programs; and

WHEREAS, youth programs and funding are spread out through numerous federal agencies – including Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor – resulting in difficulty coordinating important services; and

WHEREAS, for example, in youth workforce development these gaps have hindered the ability to combine resources and the development of common approaches and standards for eligibility, quality programming, and expectations for succeeding in the workplace,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that America must recognize the need for a comprehensive youth development strategy as a major step forward by our nation to remain productive and competitive and to promote economic and social mobility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a comprehensive national youth development strategy must encompass the integrated delivery of the full range of fundamental components and the variety of skills and supports described above, including establishment of a Federal Youth Development Council and passage of legislation like the Federal Youth Coordination Act of 2009, which would create the White House Office on National Youth Policy.

ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 recognizes the arts as a core curriculum subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

WHEREAS, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as authorized through the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Congress has affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

WHEREAS, a compendium of arts education research entitled Critical Links, released by the Arts Education Partnership, suggest the following:

- The arts help close the achievement gap for students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, as evidenced by improved test scores
- The arts improve academic skills essential for reading and language development
- The arts build strong mathematical skills
- The arts advance the motivation to learn
- The arts promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, inner-city and rural children have not had the same opportunities as children living in wealthier districts to learn in, through, and about the arts; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds where permissible, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts into other core subjects. We urge the Congress to appropriate \$53 million for the Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education. We further urge the establishment of a national artist corps program to provide services and assistance to schools and arts organizations to improve arts education in our communities.

SUPPORT FOR THE GREENING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, in 2007 and 2009 The U.S. Conference of Mayors led the green schools movement by passing a seminal resolution to ensure that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school; and

WHEREAS, twenty percent of America - including our students, faculty, staff, and administrators - spends their day in a school building; and

WHEREAS, children in green schools are healthier and more productive because green schools emphasize excellence in areas such as day lighting, thermal comfort, and classroom design -- all of which have been shown to improve children's well-being and ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of cleaner indoor air quality -- a key emphasis of green schools -- have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and improved teacher satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, green schools provide a learning experience that transcends the classroom by using the built environment as a context for learning, encouraging environmental literacy and hands-on, project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools using tools like the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system can optimize building performance, resolve operational inefficiencies, and dramatically reduce utility costs; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools can happen through low or no-cost operations and maintenance improvements, such as implementing water efficiency measures, green cleaning programs, sustainable purchasing practices, recycling and waste reduction initiatives, and energy management plans that can save a school district millions of dollars a year in direct operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, many of the policies, programs, and plans for greening existing schools are most cost-effective and yield the largest operational cost-savings when implemented at the district level; and

WHEREAS, mayors can positively influence construction, operation, and maintenance practices in a school district even if they don't have direct control over it,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon its constituents to partner with their local school districts to implement green initiatives such as appointing sustainability managers, establishing a green advisory team, providing training for municipal and district staff, and adopting policies that call for all district schools to pursue certification through third-party rating systems like LEED; to the extent that local school district are subject to statutory tax caps and/or debt limitations, said caps and/or debt limitations should be waived for projects related to greening school facilities.

**SUPPORT FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUND (TANF-ECF)**

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) created a new Emergency Contingency Fund under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to enable states and cities to respond to increased demands for assistance; and

WHEREAS, the \$5 billion allocated over two years may be drawn down by states and localities for cash assistance; non-recurrent assistance such as paying a utility bill and/or subsidized employment; and

WHEREAS, in most states, the program was not implemented until late 2009, due to federal delays in crafting guidance for the new program and subsequent clarifications to state and local governments requesting further information on activities eligible for the 80 percent federal funding and what sources of local, in-kind matches could be used under the program; and

WHEREAS, without further congressional action, TANF-ECF will expire on September 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, in its federal fiscal year 2011 budget, the Obama Administration proposed a new, \$2.5 billion program to extend TANF-ECF for an additional year, through September 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, House Ways and Means Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee Chairman Jim McDermott (D-WA) introduced H.R. 4564, a bill similar to the administration's budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, the House adopted a bill (H.R. 4849) which contains a new \$2.5 billion appropriation for TANF-ECF in FY 2011 with any remaining funds from the old ARRA TANF-ECF program returning to the U.S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, a projected 120,000 jobs are projected to be created with the funds by September 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, work skills and relationships developed by individuals in TANF-ECF jobs help build the foundation for permanent employment; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments need federal assurances soon that the program will continue in FY 2011 so that their private sector and non-profit partners employing TANF-ECF participants may plan accordingly; and

WHEREAS, given the need to get families back to work, state budget timelines and historic city and state fiscal stress, it is critical that the federal government act now to extend the TANF-ECF program to ensure that these supports may continue after September 30, 2010,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports and calls for the immediate enactment of \$2.5 billion in new funding through September 30, 2011 for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact an additional legislative provision to rollover into FY 2011 existing FY 2009-2010 TANF-ECF funds already subsidizing individuals in jobs to enable state and local governments to minimize program disruption and ensure that these federal funds are utilized fully.

**REGIONAL INNOVATION CLUSTERS TO STRENGTHEN COMPETITIVENESS
AND PRODUCTIVITY OF REGIONAL ECONOMIES**

WHEREAS, metropolitan leaders must contend with spurring economic productivity and quality job growth to safely lead their regions to recovery from today's economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, technological innovation in products, processes, as well as institutional innovation underlie productivity growth; and

WHEREAS, U.S.-based operations of numerous industries have not been fully effective in adopting innovation to successfully respond to changing market conditions, including competitive challenges from abroad; and

WHEREAS, regional industry clusters promote innovation by providing thick cross-institutional networks that facilitate technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and improved access to specialized labor, materials, and equipment; and

WHEREAS, strong clusters are positively correlated with increased patenting, greater entrepreneurship, and higher wages; and

WHEREAS, the nation's network of cluster initiatives to promote the growth and development of strong, competitive regional clusters is thin and uneven in terms of geographic and industry coverage; and

WHEREAS, current federal economic development programs are inadequate to support competitive regional clusters; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is fairly alone among the world's developing countries in its passive stance toward regional competitiveness and cluster development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports fully funding initiatives proposed in the FY2011 budget request that would support Regional Innovation Clusters, including the Economic Development Administration's \$75 million Regional Innovation Clusters program; the Small Business Administration's \$11 million effort to align with clusters; the National Science Foundation's \$12 million Innovation Ecosystems program; the Department of Agriculture's Regional Innovation Initiatives; and the Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize the America COMPETES legislation, including the new provision (sec. 503 of H.R. 5116) for a regional innovation clusters grant program in the Commerce Department that would award funds to support the development of regional innovation strategies, and create a research and information program to gather and disseminate best practices in regional innovation strategies and collect and make available data on U.S. clusters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to change the current language about the proposed regional innovation clusters program in the America COMPETES reauthorization bill (sec. 503 of H.R. 5116) to clarify that awards would not go to narrow, individual cluster projects, but rather regional programs that promote cluster initiatives more generally, in order to enhance regional flexibility and capacity to respond to economic change, improve the likelihood of success, and increase cooperation among regional actors.

VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

WHEREAS volunteers and nonprofit organizations are crucial partners for cities in providing much-needed social services, particularly during this economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, today, tens of millions of Americans volunteer to tackle our most urgent needs and millions more are prepared to fill gaps in our nation's social safety net; and

WHEREAS recent studies have shown that the very institutions whose role it would be to deploy the time and talents of these volunteers lack the capacity to use a new surge of volunteers effectively; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost for a nonprofit to screen, train and manage one volunteer per year is \$300 and most nonprofits must put volunteer management in the back seat to core functions, resulting in those willing to serve having fewer valuable opportunities and basic services going undelivered; and

WHEREAS, we have seen the need for volunteer infrastructure in times of crisis such as Hurricane Katrina when thousands of unaffiliated volunteers flooded the Gulf region and had to be screened, trained, housed, fed and deployed; and,

WHEREAS, a modest federal investment in a strong volunteer management infrastructure to build the capacity for nonprofits to recruit, train, target and retain volunteers would support the social service delivery systems in cities, large and small; and

WHEREAS, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009 included such an investment vehicle - the Volunteer Generation Fund – for grants to entities that 1) are dedicated to the practice of connecting volunteers to meaningful, diverse opportunities and 2) have a track record of practical, actionable engagement strategies across sectors; and

WHEREAS, the Fund, administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, awards grants to state service commissions and nonprofit organizations that either directly carry out volunteer programs or develop and support community-based entities that recruit, manage or support volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Fund was authorized for \$50 million in FY2010 and Congress appropriated only \$4 million; and

WHEREAS, the President has requested \$10 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund for FY2011,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide \$10 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund in FY2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should ensure both nonprofit organizations and state service commissions are eligible to apply for funding, as specified in the original Serve America Act.

**REAUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION (EDA)**

WHEREAS, America's success has been based on the hard work, technology and innovations that have lead to such products and inventions such as electricity, the airplane, and the Internet;

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history economic development activities ranging from infrastructure improvements to investments in innovation and technology have created jobs and helped make American regions more competitive;

WHEREAS, a free and democratic society provides the freedom of thoughts and expression that are essential in the exchange of innovative ideas;

WHEREAS, a strong educational system must include a focus on science, technology and mathematics to provide the structural foundation for future high-wage, high-skilled, and sustainable jobs;

WHEREAS, innovation and entrepreneurship lead to the creation of small business which account for nearly 50% of the United States' GNP and nearly 50% of total employment; Whereas, investments in green jobs, next-generation infrastructure, and education are putting people back to work and creating a cycle of investment, innovation and job creation for tomorrow;

WHEREAS, tools such as business and technology incubators are able to provide necessary resources that can help create innovation and develop entrepreneurial organizations;

WHEREAS, public private partnerships are integral in spurring and promoting innovation, entrepreneurship;

WHEREAS, collaborative innovation networks can speed the development of ideas, inventions, and innovation through the use of knowledge sharing;

WHEREAS, to maintain America's economic competitiveness, government policies must promote and support innovation, entrepreneurship, business development, and intellectual property protections;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Economic Development Association is working region by region to help speed the transition to a more entrepreneurial, innovation-driven society by fostering regional innovation that builds on an area's competitive advantages, encourages business exports and competitiveness, and leverages private investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt policies and procedures that support scientific and technological innovation, product invention, entrepreneurship, and the growth of American small businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USCM supports the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration so that it may continue to fulfill its mission to prepare America's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS JOBS
RELATED SERVICES THROUGH THE LOCAL DELIVERY SYSTEM ESTABLISHED
UNDER THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998**

WHEREAS, according to the National Bureau of Economic research, the nation is now in its 32nd month of a deep recession, the longest since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Labor, as of June, 2010, the unemployment rate was at 9.7 percent – almost double the 4.9 percent rate prior to the onset of the recession; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Labor, as of June 2010 the true unemployment rate that includes individuals who have exhausted unemployment and are no longer looking for work or working part time wanting full time employment was at 16.6 percent; and

WHEREAS, the WIA led One-Stop system which includes Wagner Peyser and other workforce partner funding streams has seen an increase of 200 percent in its services to the job seeking public; and

WHEREAS, the facile, adaptable, and responsive nature of the current system as proven by national emergency and disaster job responsiveness, the implementation of a national summer program and the manner in which the One-Stop system stepped up to meet the challenge of the surge of the jobless seeking services at the One Stop, has shown the WIA / Wagner Peyser funded workforce system can handle the development of jobs and referral of individuals to jobs regardless of the program; and

WHEREAS, under WIA our nation's cities have been able to provide job training to workers while they are laid off, as well as continue to meet the demand of local businesses for a skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, under WIA our nation's cities have been able to direct workers to job training which will meet the demands of local businesses as the economy begins to slowly turn toward recovery; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering a series of new Jobs Bills to help fuel the recovery and make sure that jobs are there for the nation's unemployed workers, including but not limited to, H.R. 4849, *The Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act*, H.R. 4899, *The Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act*, and H.R. 4812, *The Local Jobs for America Act-of 2010*, each of which includes a component for subsidized jobs; and

WHEREAS, the local workforce investment system has proven time after time as was evidenced by the delivery of last year's Summer Youth Employment Program, that the system has the organization, skills and ability to quickly create temporary subsidized jobs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the federal government to direct those initiatives contained as component of the above cited bills or any other initiative which may appear in future bills, which provides for

the creation of temporary jobs, to be delivered under the auspices of the local delivery system created and operating under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; and strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by significantly increasing its funding to \$8.35 billion, which is consistent with maintaining current funding for WIA programs at 2000 levels (adjusted for inflation), sustaining the levels included in ARRA, and ensuring a continued strong Summer Youth program to address the crisis in youth employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that clearly defined roles for state and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), strong local authority and increased flexibility for local elected officials and their WIBs and the current statutory and decision-making authority for chief local elected officials and their WIBs remain at the core and be the key organization of all federal workforce and jobs initiatives as solutions are offered to help our economy.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DELIVERY OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
THROUGH THE LOCAL WORKFORCE SYSTEM CREATED UNDER THE
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998**

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 directed States to designate local workforce areas in concert with local elected officials based upon criteria established in the Act; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the WIA chief local elected officials in each workforce investment area appointed majority private sector local workforce investment boards which together with the chief local elected officials in each established a system of one-stop career centers in their local workforce areas to provide seamless access to workforce services including job training and employment together with their one-stop partner programs; and

WHEREAS, the current recession, known as the “Great Recession” has served to showcase the critical role locally managed one-stops under the leadership of local elected officials and local workforce investment boards have played in providing hope to the jobless, through the provision of job counseling, job training, job development and job placement and replacement; and

WHEREAS, in city after city the locally driven one-stop career centers have been the hub of activity for workers providing them with the tools necessary for them to obtain the services needed to rejoin the labor force; and

WHEREAS, locally led and managed workforce systems will continue to be a key factor in fueling the recovery, and in helping our nation’s cities to prepare its citizens and residents to meet the demands of employers in their local areas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President and Congress to retain the existing governance structure in any legislation which calls for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as the current assignment of responsibilities between the federal government, the states and the local elected officials has proven to be so effective in both reaching those individuals who most need the services offered by the workforce system and in serving the needs of and acting as a liaison between employers in their local areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that clearly defined roles for state and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), stronger WIA alignment with other federal workforce programs, and that the current statutory and decision-making authority for chief local elected officials and their WIBs remain at the core of WIA reauthorization, so that the system will allow for development of programs that are informed by in-depth knowledge of the local business community, hiring and training needs of local and regional businesses, and the promotion of greater accountability as policies are designed to reflect local trends.