

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District, Chair

JANET WOLF

Second District

DOREEN FARR

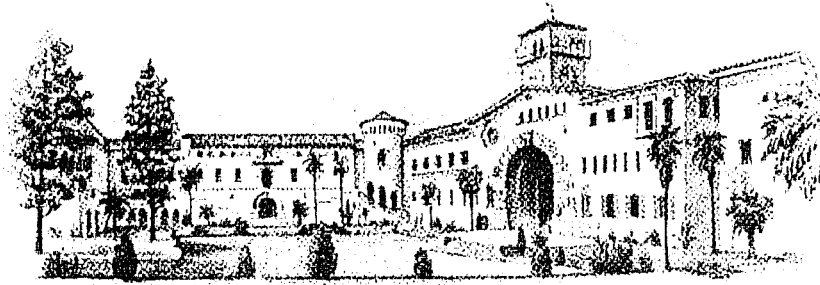
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PETER ADAM

Fourth District

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Vice-Chair



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County Administration Building

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Telephone: (805) 568-2190

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

As part of its 2013 Legislative Platform, the Board of Supervisors supports several recommendations for WIA Reauthorization that accompany this letter. Those recommendations address several key areas including regionalization, local flexibility, One-Stops, Youth Councils, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, funding, formula, and innovation.

The County requests your support for the attached recommendations and please urge your colleagues that serve on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee to expedite action on WIA Reauthorization legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:sbm

Enclosures

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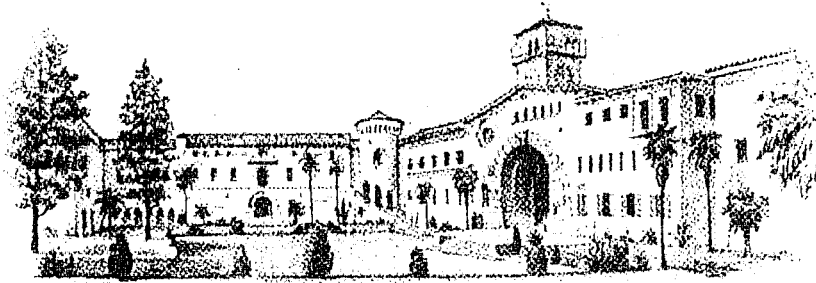
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
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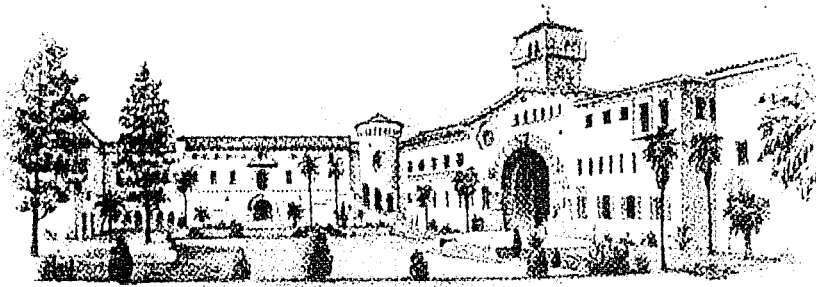
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
SH-833 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

As part of its 2013 Legislative Platform, the Board of Supervisors supports several recommendations for WIA Reauthorization that accompany this letter. Those recommendations address several key areas including regionalization, local flexibility, One-Stops, Youth Councils, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, funding, formula, and innovation.

The County urges your committee to expedite action on legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act, and to address the attached recommendations to enable the County WIB to continue to serve the needs of job seekers, youth, and businesses in Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
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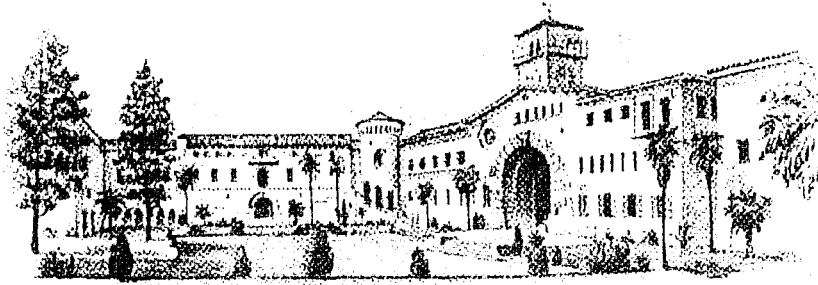
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
SH-112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

As part of its 2013 Legislative Platform, the Board of Supervisors supports several recommendations for WIA Reauthorization that accompany this letter. Those recommendations address several key areas including regionalization, local flexibility, One-Stops, Youth Councils, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, funding, formula, and innovation.

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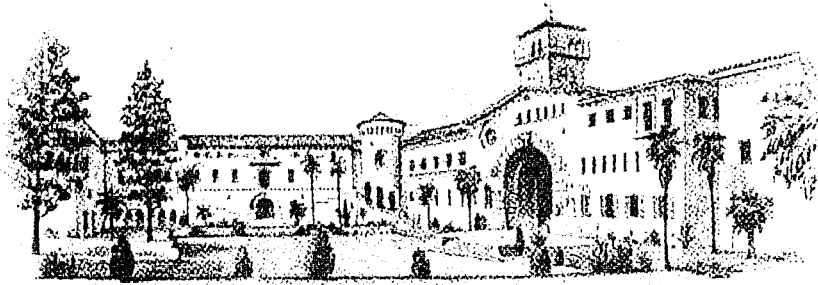
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Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
SH-833 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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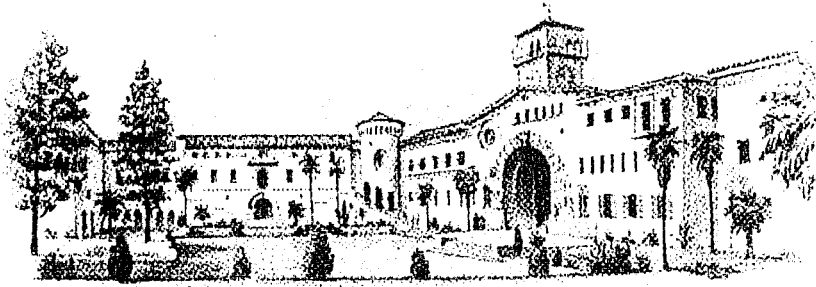
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 13, 2013

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

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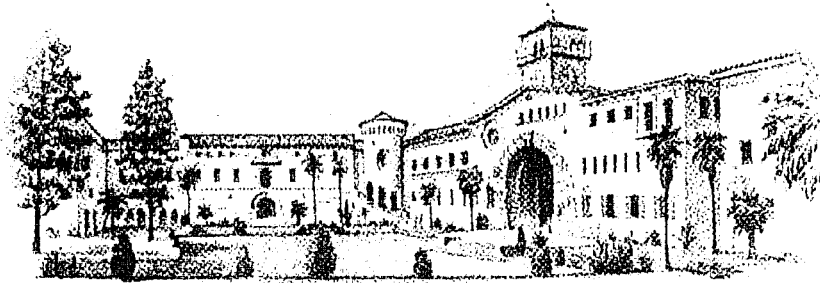
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

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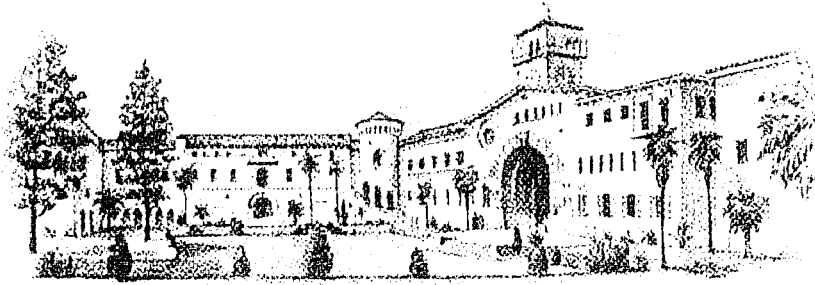
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 13, 2013

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

As part of its 2013 Legislative Platform, the Board of Supervisors supports several recommendations for WIA Reauthorization that accompany this letter. Those recommendations address several key areas including regionalization, local flexibility, One-Stops, Youth Councils, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, funding, formula, and innovation.

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WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The national, publicly-financed Workforce Development/Workforce Investment system is in the process of being reauthorized and updated for the first time since 1998. This system, authorized by the Workforce Investment Act is a public/private partnership—with the County of Santa Barbara representing the public. The reauthorization is currently before Congress, and Santa Barbara County would like to build upon the best practices of the current system in order to continue to recover from the economic downturn of 2009, and produce better jobs for our citizens, and a stronger community.

During these difficult fiscal times, nationally, we are concerned that funding will be reduced; decision-making will be done at the national or state level—when it should be done at the local level; and, that local flexibility will suffer under new Federal or State mandated set-asides, requirements, priorities. In short, we want a locally-driven workforce system.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

As the publicly-funded workforce system, the community benefits from a well-trained, competitive workforce and a thriving business community. The workforce system also assists local Elected Officials, private foundations, community colleges and others in formulating their priorities for funding, training, and initiatives.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The current funding received is determined via national formula based on unemployment rates, numbers of people in poverty and other factors; with Santa Barbara County's combined WIA funded currently at \$4,600,000. This is a decrease from the earlier days of the program—when, it should be noted, the unemployment rates and national economy were in much better shape than they are today. There is no General Fund cost (via a

Match or other requirement) to Santa Barbara County in the administration/operation of the program.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Governance:

- **Regionalization.** Provide incentives for regional collaborations—while, not undermining the foundation of “local control” or attempt to merge WIBs, which is a concession to the inability of the State to manage the program. Collaboration of WIBs that share common industry sectors should be rewarded with additional, new funding.
- **Oversight.** Strengthen the role of the local boards to convene and connect economic vitality, education, and workforce development (including the Wagner-Peyser programs).
- **Local Flexibility.** Retain local flexibility of the WIBs by encouraging the expanded use of “waivers” that foster innovation in program design, service delivery, and collaboration. Waivers that allow for greater use of the self-employment/entrepreneurial training options, enhanced services & collaborations with the private sector businesses, and university-generated start-up businesses should be encouraged.

Structure:

- **One-Stops.** Continue to support the One-Stop system as the *primary* deliverer of WIA services—while leaving the option open for WIBs to work with other delivery systems (e.g., community colleges) on an as-needed basis, and when economically advantageous. Consistent with a re-definition of “Mandated Partners” require that the Mandated Partners not only co-locate at the One-Stops but also provide financial support for the “basic” operational costs.
- **Business Services.** Consistent with Business being recognized as an equal customer (along with job-seekers), allow WIBs increased flexibility in serving the business community—including allowing Dislocated Worker funding to be used for incumbent worker/up-grade training, as a deterrent to lay-offs (modeled after the California ETP program). Also, a new, separate funding stream should be created to fund Business Services (*separate* from the Rapid Response funding), including several categories of performance measurements. In addition, encourage the alignment of the Small Business Development Center programs, SBA loan programs, and incubator programs *under the WIBs oversight*.
- **Sequence of Services.** Relax requirements for the sequencing of “core”, “intensive” and “training” services in order to allow job-seekers to receive the services they need as expeditiously as possible. As part of this relaxation, there must be WIB policies and guidelines around any exception to the basic triage delivery model.

- **Youth Councils.** Continue the Youth Councils, with the following modifications: greater flexibility by local WIBs on the membership; strong encouragement of youth as members of the council; expand the role of the council as “conveners” of meetings, forums, conferences on youth issues; require an annual Work Plan and a Report of Accomplishments from the council to the WIB.

Accountability Measures:

- Add performance standards for Business Services to WIA performance measurements.
- Require an Annual Work Plan from the One-Stop Operator to the WIB; and an Annual “One-Stop Assessment” performed on behalf of the WIB to identify items for continuous improvement—and validate the continued use of the Operator.

Eligibility:

- Add additional funding to the WIA (out-of-school) Youth Program to target “transitional youth” who are 21-24 years old. There should be no income criteria associated with this group—but eligibility should be based upon documentation of local WIB defined “barriers.” These funds and program design must focus on job skills acquisition, soft skills and job-keeping skills. These funds may also be used for OJT for transitional youth. The performance measurement associated with this new eligibility group, should be obtaining and retention in employment.
- Recognizing what is already occurring, the “Adult” and “Dislocated Worker” funding should be combined to serve one overall target group of “Adults.” The combining of both funding streams should be a “local decision” and option that would be included in the local WIB Plan. [If the funding streams are combined, the funding could be used for incumbent worker training, as outlined above.]

Funding & Formula:

- Re-establish a separate funding stream for Summer Youth Jobs Programs. Similar to ARRA, this funding would recognize that because of year-around school calendars, summer is not restricted to the traditional May thru August months. WIBs would need to designate, in their Plan to the State, which months they will use Summer Youth Jobs funding for (Note: there can be more than one “summer” period within a LWIA). Also, again as in ARRA, summer jobs programs will be exempt from the established 10 Elements of WIA Youth Programs. And, eligibility will be broadened to include up to 30% of participants NOT meeting any income criteria.
- Small WIB Flexibility/Waivers. Because we believe in the value of all WIBs, and the local point-of-view that even the smallest WIBs provide, we believe there should be additional flexibilities—and Rule Waivers—available to those WIBs with total (all programs) allocations of \$5 million or less. Targeted Small WIB waivers may include: greater flexibility to transfer funds between adult funding streams (not Youth); greater ability to use Rapid Response funds for program

activities; and, modification of Federal (and State) imposed “training mandates” or requirements. *One size does not fit all.*

CONTACT

Director-Department of Social Services; Ray McDonald, Director - WIB
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400