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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

March 4, 2013

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The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6100

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Training
U.S. House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6100

Dear Chairmen Kline and Foxx:

On Wednesday, March 6, 2013, our Committee is scheduled to mark up H.R. 803, relating to the Workforce Investment Act.

As you know, H.R. 803 is largely identical to last Congress's H.R. 4297, a partisan bill which our Committee marked up nine months ago. We continue to have concerns about its impact on the workforce investment system. The bill puts at risk services for disadvantaged populations, including youth, older workers, farm workers, workers with disabilities, women, English language learners, and low-income workers. It jeopardizes the voices of many key stakeholders on workforce investment boards, including labor unions, community colleges, and other community-based organizations. In our communities, inclusiveness and collaboration are often the key to successful job creation and employment efforts. It fails to seize this reauthorization opportunity to reform the system based on what we have learned over the last decade or more about what works and what does not work, and to encourage innovation around the country. It eliminates programs for the sake of eliminating programs, without any independent evaluation of whether they are in fact duplicative of one another. In light of these and other concerns, this bill could not garner support from the Democratic caucus on the Committee less than a year ago.

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At the identical markup last June, Committee Democrats offered a long list of amendments. Most of those amendments were rejected on party line votes. We have no reason to doubt a similar outcome on Wednesday.

I hope you will agree with us that reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act is critical in this economy. This is not a matter to be taken lightly. To become law, any serious reauthorization attempt will require bipartisanship. The exercise on Wednesday promises to be a partisan one. It is a rerun of what we did last summer. It is time to move on, and try something different.

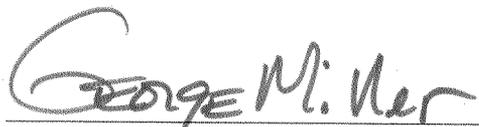
There remain important differences in policy between our two sides. However, we believe that those differences are not insurmountable if there is a shared interest in creating sound workforce investment policy on behalf of the American people.

Through genuine and inclusive bipartisan negotiations, we may be able to reach an agreement on reauthorization. Partisan fights may benefit a short-term political agenda, but it is becoming increasingly clear that they are of little benefit to working families, businesses, or the United States economy.

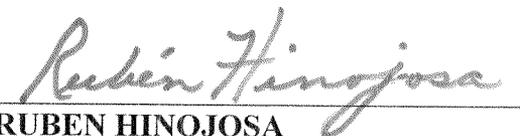
We therefore respectfully request that you cancel Wednesday's markup and announce a robust and meaningful schedule for Member-to-Member negotiations on the Workforce Investment Act reauthorization.

We look forward to your prompt reply.

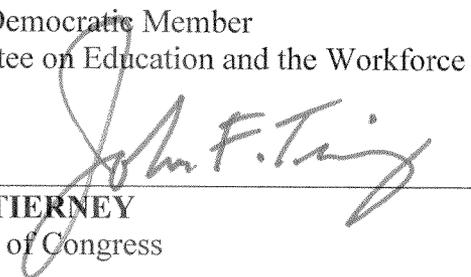
Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER
Senior Democratic Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce



RUBEN HINOJOSA
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Training



JOHN TIERNEY
Member of Congress