



May 25, 2012

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2187 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman Kline and Senior Democratic Member Miller:

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the inclusion of section 127 in H.R. 4297, the Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012. If States exercise the authority in this section, entire Adult education programs could disappear, leaving those who rely on these critical services without any path to address their basic skill needs. This section could jeopardize the ability of adults to learn English and obtain GEDs, further restricting their employability at a time when the nation can ill-afford to scale back on its capacity to compete in the world economy.

Section 127 of H.R. 4297 would permit governors to consolidate, under a unified plan, funds that are presently received under several different federal funding streams. They would be able to treat those funds as if they were appropriated for programs and services provided through the Workforce Investment Act's one-stop centers. In States that choose this direction, adult basic education programs could be lost in an effort to further supplement funding for job training and related services. Without the Federal funding provided for this purpose, millions of adults seeking a GED or working to master basic skills could have nowhere to turn.

As you move forward on this legislation, we urge you to reconsider the consolidation authority proposed by section 127 of H.R. 4297. While the section's provisions encouraging unified planning are valuable, the authority to consolidate programs as proposed would undermine the efforts of adults seeking to upgrade their basic education skills. Absent the system of adult education opportunities in place now, too many Americans would be left without opportunities to become productive and contributing members of the workforce.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Sharon Darling, President