



# NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COALITION

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March 6, 2013

John Tierney  
Committee on Education and the  
Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2238 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

George Miller, Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the  
Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ruben Hinojosa  
Committee on Education and the  
Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2262 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Tierney, Miller and Hinojosa:

On behalf of the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) and its national membership network, I am writing to express our support and appreciation for the introduction and sponsorship of the *Workforce Investment Act of 2013* (H.R. 798). In particular, H.R. 798 recognizes that the needs of disadvantaged youth are different from adult populations and retains a separate funding stream to support employment, training, education and comprehensive services to prepare youth and young adults for the 21st century labor market.

We commend you for including provisions in H.R. 798 to simplify eligibility requirements, ensure that the youth formula prioritizes support for youth and young adults who are most in need, maintain elements that support quality programming, expands the age limit for services to 24, and authorizes a Youth Innovation and Best Practices program to support innovative approaches and practices.

At a time when youth employment is at its lowest level in 60 years, the need to strengthen and expand federal youth delivery systems that provide employment options, education and comprehensive supports to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has never been greater. H.R. 798 reflects a commitment to disadvantaged youth and the program integrity of youth-focused services.

Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act offers an opportunity to address the challenges facing our emerging workforce and to make improvements to the workforce development system. The provisions in this bill present a chance to streamline and improve workforce investment system programs, without consolidation and to engage youth through multiple pathways to success.

Thank you for your efforts in support of youth workforce development and education programs. Please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance or questions at (202) 659-1064.

Sincerely,

Mala B. Thakur  
Executive Director  
National Youth Employment Coalition

cc: US House of Representatives, Education and Workforce Committee