



February 14, 2013

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
Education and the Workforce Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

On behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America [PVA], I commend you for introducing legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act [WIA]. PVA is the only Congressionally-chartered veterans' service organization solely dedicated to representing veterans with spinal cord injury and/or dysfunction. Many of our members stand to benefit from vocational rehabilitation programs authorized under WIA and it is regrettable that renewal of this important law is so long overdue.

We appreciate your efforts to instill greater performance accountability measures in veterans' workforce programs and applaud inclusion of provisions establishing statutory authority for the Office of Disability Employment Policy within the Department of Labor. The emphasis in Title IV on competitive integrated employment is another commendable feature of this bill.

In the last Congress, some efforts to renew WIA failed to address the shamefully low labor force participation rate of people with disabilities and did little to hold states accountable for responding to their employment needs. This latest version of WIA reauthorization contains many positive provisions that continue and improve key programs that would assist people with disabilities in finding and maintaining employment.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with your office to ensure reauthorization of WIA during the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

Douglas K. Vollmer
Associate Executive Director