



October 21, 2013

Now that the federal government has opened up its doors again, it is time to focus on what comes next.

As I indicated in the [October 17th Legislative Update](#), the fight to secure FY14 funding is not over - not by a long shot. I promised that I would follow up with three specific activities that you could easily undertake in an effort to change the tone in Washington, DC. This is the first step.

Move Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization in the Senate

The lack of a reauthorization for the Workforce Investment Act has been used frequently as a reason for cutting funding for workforce programs. It is time to eliminate that excuse.

While the House passed their measure ([The Skills Act](#)) earlier in the year and the [Senate measure](#) was approved by the the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee in July - progress on this important measure has stopped. The Senate version has not been considered by the full Senate, which is the next step in the process.

NAWDP and about 40 other national organizations are joining together to encourage the Senate to move forward on WIA reauthorization and we need your help. We are asking other state, regional, local and national organizations to join us in this effort.

What YOU can do right now

1. [Read the letter](#) asking for WIA to move forward in the Senate. As you can see, we have tried to strike a balance between moving the measure forward while still allowing an opportunity to continue to improve the measure. You can see the national organizations that are launching this effort already on the letter.
2. Obtain permission to [Add your organization's name to the list of supporters](#). If possible, we would like to add your organization by Friday, October 25th. It will take a few days to verify all of the organizations. While not listed on the posted letter, an additional 140 organizations have already signed their name to the letter.

In the next few days, we will be coming back to you with additional activities that you can undertake that will help raise the profile of workforce development with our federal officials in order to help ensure that this does not occur again in early 2014.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Bridget@nawdp.org or 202/589-1790.

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