



**July 9, 2014**

## **House of Representative Passes Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Investment Act**

Earlier today, the House followed the Senate's lead by passing the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)*. The [Senate approved the measure](#) last month.

This bill was a culmination of many years and a lot of hard work by NAWDP members and workforce professionals across the nation.

For those of you who contacted elected officials, provide information on the effectiveness of your program, and continued to provide outstanding service to job seekers and employers - **Congratulations!**

The measure now moves to the White House where the President is expected to sign it into law.

In the coming months, the Department of Labor will be creating the regulations that will greatly affect how we do our important work. Please remain alert for updates on this process from NAWDP and don't be surprised if we ask for your guidance with respect to the impact of specific requirements they may be contemplating.

### **Action Needed**

Please take a moment to reach out to your Representative and Senators and thank them for their leadership in passing this important piece of legislation. Let them know what their continued support will mean for your customers and your community.

Thank you are words that elected officials do not often hear and this a great opportunity to further strengthen your relationship with them.

If you don't have time to send a formal letter - you can tweet or post a message on their Facebook page. You can find a direct link to officials' social media on their official government pages ([www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov))

### **What's next for workforce development?**

After you have done your celebratory victory lap (go ahead - you have earned it), it is time to focus back on funding the programs. What WIOA does is authorize programs - it does not actually fund them.

That means that we will still be facing a tough battle to remain on the radar screen of decision-makers for continued financial support. Build on this momentum by reaching out to your elected officials at the national, state and local level to continue the conversation and to remind them the more work still needs to be done.

**Workforce Development Month** is just around the corner in September and this would be a great time to get key policymakers and supporters into your center, organization or program.

**Thank you for all of your efforts on this.** If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [Bridget@nawdp.org](mailto:Bridget@nawdp.org) or 202/589-1790.

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