



March 5, 2013

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
Education and Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Higher
Education and Workforce Training
Education and Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Tierney
Education and Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Miller, Representative Tierney, and Representative Hinojosa:

We are writing to express our support for H.R. 798 (Workforce Investment Act of 2013), which we believe is a strong step forward toward strengthening the nation's workforce system for the 12.3 million unemployed and countless underemployed low-income youth and adults seeking ladders of opportunity into the middle class.

CLASP is a nonprofit organization that develops and advocates for policies at the federal, state and local levels that improve the lives of low-income people. We commend your efforts to better align workforce, education and training programs and promote the development of multiple pathways to postsecondary education and employment for low-income or educationally underprepared adults and youth, including high school drop-outs. H.R. 798 sharpens the purposes and goals of statewide and local workforce development systems, supports comprehensive planning at the state and local levels and adopts a shared performance measurement system for all WIA core programs. It also authorizes Innovation Funds that are expected to build capacity to deliver services in high-poverty communities and expand the use of promising strategies for adults and youth.

Specifically, we wish to express our support for advancing improved access to training and additional flexibility in the delivery of training services, such as transitional jobs. We feel strongly that the federal workforce system should include youth but that the activities and strategies that support multiple education and training pathways to good jobs are supported through a funding stream separate from adults. We are encouraged by the inclusion language that would strengthen services to this population, with an emphasis on out-of-school youth.

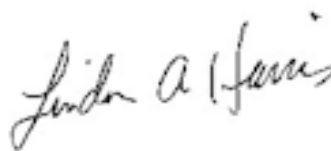
With regard to Title II, we are pleased by the support for career pathways, integrated education and training, concurrent approaches to adult education and increased transitions to and success in postsecondary education. In addition, we applaud the improvements made to current law that recognize adult education as one of the first steps for an adult learner on a career pathway that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

We recognize the numerous improvements to current law that are reflected in the bill. As the House Education and Workforce Committee moves forward with reauthorization, we encourage inclusion of additional safeguards to ensure that services are accessible and available to individuals who have low education and skill levels and diverse needs. We would be happy to share these recommendations with you. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our recommendations, please contact Neil Ridley at neilridley@clasp.org.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Ganzglass
Director, Workforce Development
CLASP



Linda Harris
Director, Youth Policy
CLASP