



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**
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July 12, 2012

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chair, House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request your support for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding levels similar to those provided for in S. 3295. Sustaining such funding levels will facilitate support for WIA activities in a manner that enhances employer engagement, promotes customer choices in the selection of training services, increases skills, ensures accountability in the use of taxpayer funds and provides a commitment to the future of the American workforce.

As you know, WIA-funded programs assisted nearly ten million jobseekers this past year alone. Despite nearly double digit unemployment, over half of adult and dislocated workers participating in WIA gained employment and became taxpayers once again.

The Governmental Accountability Office's recent recognition of the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) Business Service programs as a best practice proves that in our County, WIA is making a real difference for both jobseekers and employers. The County of San Bernardino's WIB successfully implemented a process improvement program that resulted in saving 1,106 jobs and hiring 204 residents into newly created jobs, infusing \$25 million back into the local economy.

The County's business services unit develops relationships with local employers in high-demand industries that promise job growth and opportunities for County residents, effectively averting layoffs through business efficiency training and rapid response to solve crisis situations. WIA activities include a host of additional services to address concerns unique to our region, including customized job fairs, on-site recruitment, no-cost business workshops, labor market research, and tax credits, and incentives. Furthermore, in 2011, more than 92,000 dislocated workers, youth, veterans and seniors visited our Employment Resource Centers to receive job training and placement services, viewing over 10,912 posted jobs, and receiving assessments and career development training.

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.

Honorable Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro

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While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions before Congress, the County of San Bernardino stands by you in your commitment to the future of the American workforce, by serving as good stewards of WIA funding, through the creation of successful, innovative and responsive approaches to these unprecedented employment conditions.

For these reasons, we respectfully encourage your support of legislation to appropriate funding for critically needed WIA programs at or above current funding levels to ensure that critical employment and training related assistance is available to jobseekers and employers as our nation emerges from recession.

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, we thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director, at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,



JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Vice-Chairman
Board of Supervisors



BRAD MITZELFELT,
Board of Supervisors

CC: Members, San Bernardino County Congressional Delegation