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Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Correspondence 06

National Association of Countries

National Council of La Raze

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Authors

National Association of Counties; National Council of La Raza; National Urban League; New Ways to Work; Association of Farmworker Opportunities Programs; The United States Conference of Mayors; National Youth Employment Coalition; Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.; Jobs for Youth; and Call-A-Teen

May 23, 1996

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2101
Fax: 202-224-2417

Dear Senator Kennedy:

We are writing to you as a coalition of public and non-profit organizations regarding pending action by the conference committee on workforce development legislation (HR 1617).

We all believe as you do that the current job training system can be improved. While we are in consensus about the need for reform, like Congressional conferees we do not always agree on the specifics. However, as stakeholders in workforce development representing significant national constituencies, we feel strongly that it is important for the conferees to hear our views regarding agreements which may be considered in confidence.

Your staff have often been generous with their time and have sought information from many of us regarding specific issues. However, as the conferees reconvene none of us has had an opportunity to review or discuss a draft conference agreement. As a result, none of us have an understanding of the comprehensive set of draft agreements the conference will consider. Consequently, we have not had an opportunity to develop our views regarding how such draft agreements might affect the ability of the workforce development system to provide training and employment services to the workforce of the future and meet the specific needs of youth, disadvantaged adults, dislocated workers and incumbent workers. This makes it extraordinarily difficult for us to play a responsible in this final and critical stage of the legislative process and to represent those who deliver these services.

As you move toward completing the work of the conference committee we urge you to immediately invite the input of stakeholders such as ourselves regarding draft agreements under consideration. We believe such input is necessary to continue to build support for comprehensive improvements to the employment and training system and, thereby, assist in the implementation of effective reforms.

Thank you for consideration of our request. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this very important legislation.

Sincerely,

National Association of Counties
National Council of La Raza
National Urban League

New Ways to Work
Assoc. of Farmworker Opportunities Programs

The United States Conference of Mayors
National Youth Employment Coalition
Opportunities Industrialization Centers of
America, Inc.,
Jobs for Youth
Call-A-Teen