

University of Rhode Island
DigitalCommons@URI

Consolidated and Reformed Workforce
Development and Literacy Act (1976)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts and
Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996)

1996

Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Correspondence 01

Bill Clinton

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_19

Recommended Citation

Clinton, Bill, "Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Correspondence 01" (1996).
Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976). Paper 19.
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_19/19http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_19/19

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 10, 1996

Dear Madam Chair:

I am writing to express my views on the job training and education reform legislation now in conference. I appreciate the Conferees' efforts to address at least some of the key principles included in my G.I. Bill for America's Workers proposal. I believe we all recognize the importance of reforming, streamlining, and consolidating job training and education programs.

However, I cannot accept a conference bill that does not create a world class workforce development system that is built on a firm foundation of individual opportunity, strong accountability for results, and clear pathways for youth from school to work. This legislation must: authorize spending for a new system at no less than the levels proposed in my FY 1997 Budget; arm dislocated workers with sufficient information and purchasing power, through skill grants, to choose the training that is right for them; preserve national funding for school-to-work infrastructure building grants; ensure accountability to taxpayers by establishing high standards for program quality and clear accountability; and provide that education authorities are responsible for education resources at the State and local levels, and that those resources are targeted within the State. The attachment to this letter details these and other essential priorities pertaining to this legislation.

I believe we share the common goal of creating a job training and education system that equips all Americans to prosper in a global economy. I urge the Conferees to craft an acceptable bipartisan bill by meeting these concerns and fully incorporating my G.I. Bill.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Nancy Landon Kassebaum
Chairman
Committee on Labor and Human Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attachment**ISSUES FOR CONFERENCE ON H.R. 1617**

•**Sufficient authorization of appropriations.** It is imperative that the bill authorize spending for the consolidated programs at least at the levels proposed in the FY 1997 Budget. Future appropriation action must not be constrained by insufficient authorizations that imprudently cut funding for education and training investments.

•**Adequate funding for skill grants for dislocated workers.** The bill must earmark no less than \$1.3 billion for dislocated worker assistance, and ensure that these individuals have sufficient information and resources — including through the use of skill grants — to choose the training that is right for them.

•**Dedicated national funding to continue the School-to-Work implementation grants.** The School-to-Work Opportunities Act should not be repealed. To date, 27 States have received implementation grants under the School-to-Work Opportunities Act. Dedicated funding to continue School-to-Work implementation grants is essential to permit these States to complete their system building activities, and to provide an opportunity for all remaining States to do the same. Without a strong, lasting school-to-work infrastructure, the promise of this bill for youth development will be unfulfilled.

•**Accountability to taxpayers for results.** The bill must ensure that taxpayer dollars are not invested in programs that don't deliver results. Since Federal funds support the workforce development system, the final bill must establish the Federal government as a full partner in determining measurable goals and objectives, establishing expected levels of performance for State and local areas, and approving plans. To protect against fraudulent and incompetent training providers, this bill must include strong provisions on "gatekeeping" and consumer information. The Secretaries of Education and Labor should be clearly responsible and accountable for administering workforce education and workforce training and employment activities, respectively. Their resource and staffing needs should be determined through the annual budget and appropriations process.

•**State and local education agency control and responsibility for education resources.** The conference bill must ensure that State and local education agencies have responsibility for planning, administering, and making decisions relevant to education resources. Full collaboration of State and local workforce boards and the private sector with State and local education agencies is essential.

•**Adequate, properly targeted resources for adult education and training, in-school youth, at-risk youth, a summer jobs program, and the nation's labor exchange.** The conference bill must ensure a priority for these activities and for sufficient funding, at levels consistent with the FY 1997 Budget. In addition, the bill must contain within-State allocation formulas, as in current law, that target at-risk youth and that direct in-school funds to school districts with greatest need and post-secondary education institutions that

serve disadvantaged individuals. The Wagner-Peyser Act, which establishes the public employment services, must remain the fundamental legislative charter for our nation's public labor exchange services, ensuring the prudent use of employer-paid federal unemployment taxes.

•Local governmental responsibility for job training. While Governors should have final approval authority over the local plans affecting job training funds, elected officials from our cities and counties must have responsibility for administering and overseeing local One-Stop Career Center and job training funds, through workforce development boards that bring together business and labor and other community leaders to plan and develop flexible job training programs appropriate to their communities.