



April 5, 2024

Chairwoman Virginia Foxx
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Bobby Scott
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: SHRM Letter of Support for the Reauthorization of WIOA

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

SHRM is the global association representing over 340,000+ human resources professionals and executives. Our members are the strategists and catalysts in our workplace, ensuring workers and workplaces have the skills to be competitive in the global economy. SHRM strongly supports H.R. 6655, *A Stronger Workforce for America Act*, critical legislation that modernizes the nation's workforce development system.

SHRM is encouraged by the bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). H.R. 6655 is a significant step toward strengthening America's workforce and ensuring its long-term global competitiveness. It wisely invests in our future, supporting strong and inclusive talent pipelines, including opportunities for untapped talent pools. Engaging untapped talent – older workers, individuals with disabilities, opportunity youth, veterans, military spouses and caregivers, and individuals with a criminal record – is essential to fostering a more productive and engaged workforce.

A Stronger Workforce for America Act presents an opportunity to align education and development programs with current industry demands. This will equip individuals with the skills and certifications businesses seek, leading to more robust talent pipelines and expanded candidate pools. Ultimately, businesses gain access to a more skilled workforce while workers receive educational opportunities that will allow them to compete in today's workforce. SHRM is committed to promoting a skilled and adaptable workforce, and WIOA reauthorization aligns with this mission.

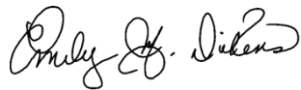
Furthermore, WIOA reauthorization allows us to advocate for programs encouraging upskilling and reskilling throughout a worker's career. This ensures workers remain competitive in the ever-evolving job market. Additionally, reauthorization can strengthen employer engagement by fostering stronger partnerships between workforce development agencies and businesses. This

collaboration gives businesses a say in program design, ensuring it directly addresses their talent needs.

SHRM strongly supports H.R. 6655, *A Stronger Workforce for America Act*, which is critical legislation to fortify the workforce development system. The widely bipartisan effort to reauthorize WIOA is a significant stride towards bolstering America's global competitiveness. Strategic investments in inclusive talent pipelines and aligning education and development programs with industry demands, H.R. 6655 promises to mutually benefit businesses and workers, and we urge its swift passage.

SHRM is committed to ensuring our workers and workplaces are globally competitive. We invite collaboration and offer our resources and insights to Congress to address our workforce needs. Please consider SHRM a trusted partner to seize this opportunity and cultivate a stronger, more resilient workforce for the sustained prosperity of our nation.

Sincerely,



Emily M. Dickens
Chief of Staff and Head of Public Affairs

Cc: Representative Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
Representative Steve Scalise, Majority Leader
Representative Tom Emmer, Majority Whip
Representative Elise Stefanik, Republic Conference Chairman
Representative Gary Palmer, Republican Policy Committee Chairman
Representative Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader
Representative Katherine Clark, Democratic Whip
Representative Pete Aguilar, Democratic Caucus Chairman
Representative Ted Lieu, Democratic Caucus Vice Chair
Representative Joe Neguse, Assistant Democratic Leader