

Dear Chair Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

I am writing to express support for H.R. 6655, *A Stronger Workforce for America Act*, a reauthorization of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA). The bipartisan nature of this legislation is to be commended and recognizes the critical importance of improving the federal workforce development to meet the demands of today's labor market. While institutions like the University of Cincinnati (UC) have long seen the missions of education and workforce development as intertwined, this legislation will encourage educational institutions to better meet their role as talent development entities for all types of learners.

UC strongly supports the legislation's efforts to expand work-based learning opportunities and developing partnerships between educational institutions, including institutions of higher education and employers. The University also supports the emphasis on "individual training accounts," and allowing states to create a "Critical Industry Skills Fund," which would support skills development programs in high-growth and high-wage industries or occupations, among other changes.

UC does express concerns around the repurposing of H-1B fee revenue to support ITAs. While ITAs are an important WIOA mechanism, the Department of Labor has used the H-1B fee revenue it has received over the years to support innovative programming, including increasing the use of apprenticeships in higher education. The University looks forward to working with Congress and federal agencies to ensure that WIOA and other federal efforts are supporting innovative efforts in workforce development that engage institutions of higher education, particularly four-year institutions.

Sincerely,



Michelle Clare

Dean, Co-operative Education and Professional Studies &
Vice Provost for Continuing Education