



June 6, 2012

The Honorable John Kline, Chair
House Education and the Workforce Committee
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Member
House Education and the Workforce Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of the more than 2.1 million members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), I urge you to support H.R. 4227, the Workforce Investment Act of 2012, when the committee takes action this week on the reauthorization of the nation's workforce investment programs.

H.R. 4227 would modernize and improve the country's workforce investment system by making critical improvements that will improve job prospects for economically disadvantaged and dislocated workers, young people and other segments of our population who continue to struggle to gain a stable foothold in the labor market. Despite our slowly improving economy, millions of our fellow Americans remain unemployed and underemployed, while employers in many high growth fields, such as health care for example, need to find skilled workers for current job openings. H.R. 4227 will bring the workforce investment system into the 21st century by supporting strategic partnerships with in-demand sector employers, community colleges, labor organizations, and non-profits, while at the same time strengthening and preserving the integrity of the public system and providing a voice for workers and their representatives in both policy development and program operations.

H.R. 4227 promotes promising strategies such as career pathways, sector partnerships, incumbent and on the job training, core skills and literacy training, and regional approaches to matching skilled workers to employers with available jobs. In addition, H.R. 4227 would ensure dedicated infrastructure funding to adequately fund One-Stop Career Centers and provide enhanced professional development opportunities for the public workers who provide critical job search and placement assistance for job-seekers, including counseling, testing, occupational and labor market information, assessment and referral to employers.

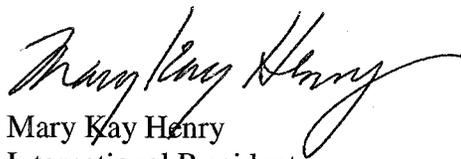
SEIU remains opposed to H.R. 4297, the Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012, which will also be considered during the committee mark-up, because, unlike H.R. 4227, it lacks a cohesive national strategy that links substantial investment in job creation to an improved educational system and greater resources directed at basic skills instruction, career ladders, on the job training and joint labor-management initiatives. H.R. 4297 takes a diametrically opposed approach to workforce investment reauthorization than does H.R. 4227.

Page 2
June 6, 2012

H.R. 4297 is, unfortunately, a heavy handed consolidation of workforce programs, eliminates priority for low income people that is contained in the current law, and eliminates important worker stakeholder representation on workforce boards, which is a basic tenant for effective policy development and delivery of services that must address the needs of both businesses and workers .

The goal of reauthorization should be to create a universal access system that connects workers to training, education, and employment services, and businesses to a well-trained and educated workforce. H.R. 4227, the Workforce Investment Act of 2012, provides the vision and approach that will meet the needs of workers and employers now and in the future. We ask you to vote yes on H.R. 4227 when it comes to a vote before the committee this week.

Sincerely,



Mary Kay Henry
International President

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