



June 6, 2012

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education & the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

On behalf of the National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR), I write to express support for H.R. 4297, the Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012, scheduled to be marked up by the Committee on Education and the Workforce on June 7. This legislation, introduced by Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC), will streamline federal workforce training programs and bring greater efficiency and accountability to their operation.

Currently, there exist nearly 50 federal government job training programs administered by some nine federal agencies. Work retraining programs can be vital to people who have lost their jobs, especially in this challenging economy, but these programs can only succeed if individuals know where to find help and can access that help with ease and simplicity.

The Workforce Investment Improvement Act takes the maze of federal programs, consolidates 27 of them into one Workforce Investment Fund, and empowers governors with authority to make additional changes as necessary to ensure these programs serve their residents efficiently and effectively. H.R. 4297 clears away unnecessary roadblocks so that those seeking help can find it, and tailors training assistance to each individual's needs. In addition, H.R. 4297 makes important changes to the governance and operation of state and local workforce investment boards by strengthening the role of local employers who are well-positioned to know about the workforce skills needed in the local economy and can help structure training programs and delivery in ways that are best for their communities.

The improvements that H.R. 4297 will bring to job retraining programs in this country make sense and are long overdue. We applaud you and Representative Foxx for the initiative in moving this legislation forward and welcome the Committee's markup of this legislation.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Rob Green  
Executive Director