

May 7, 2012

Dear Representative _____,

On behalf of the International Franchise Association (IFA), the world's largest organization representing franchise small business owners, I write to ask you to support the Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012 (H.R. 4297) as a way to assist job creation by America's 825,000 franchise businesses, which support nearly 18 million workers and generate \$2.1 trillion in economic output annually.

The nation's workforce development system is a complicated bureaucracy for our nation's job seekers to navigate. The federal government currently administers 47 job training and employment programs across nine different federal agencies. Often these bureaucracies leave employers and unemployed workers exasperated by the lack of flexibility to target resources needed to meet their demands.

The Workforce Investment Improvement Act introduced by Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC), former Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), and Representative Joe Heck (R-NV) would solve a number of these bureaucratic issues. The legislation consolidates redundant federal job training programs, reduces administrative costs at the state and local levels, expands the role of employers, ensures workers receive training for jobs that are in demand, and increases accountability.

The bill establishes a single Workforce Investment Fund, giving more flexibility to state and local leaders to direct funds towards in-demand occupations in their areas. IFA believes that together, these reforms will produce a more dynamic and locally-controlled organization that can more quickly meet the job-training needs of local constituents quicker so that they may succeed

IFA strongly supports H.R.4297 and urges Congress to pass the legislation without delay.

Sincerely,



Jay Perron
Vice President, Government Relations & Public Policy
International Franchise Association