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February 1, 2012

The Honorable Hilda Solis  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

We were pleased to hear the president call for an end to the myriad of federal job training programs. Specifically, the president stated during last week's State of the Union address:

*"And I want to cut through the maze of confusing training programs, so that from now on, people like Jackie have one program, one website, and one place to go for all the information and help that they need. It is time to turn our unemployment system into a reemployment system that puts people to work."*

We share the administration's concern that the sheer number of federal employment and training programs are a disservice to workers looking for job support services. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the federal government operates 47 separate job training programs, 44 of which are overlapping, duplicative, or target similar individuals. The GAO also found only five programs have been evaluated to determine whether they actually help workers. Streamlining this bureaucratic mess will enhance support for workers, offer employers a more qualified workforce, and promote a more efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

The House Education and Workforce Committee is determined to consolidate redundant and ineffective employment and training programs. Recently, members introduced a series of proposals that lay the foundation for a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce investment system. These proposals include H.R. 3610, the Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act, which consolidates more than 30 job training programs into four flexible funding streams. Together, our proposals will reduce administrative inefficiencies, increase accountability, and help foster a dynamic, outcome-driven workforce development system that more effectively serves job seekers and employers.

The Honorable Hilda Solis

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Given our sincere interest in working with the president on reforms that will improve job training services, we respectfully request more details on his recent remarks. We are especially interested to learn more about the president's call for "one program, one website, and one place" for workers to receive employment support. As you may recall, in September of last year, the president asked Congress to create two additional job training programs, without any request for consolidation of existing programs. We welcome any information that reconciles the president's previous support for additional programs with his most recent plan.

We believe the president's remarks during the State of the Union address represent an important development in the effort to enhance federal job training assistance. We recognize there may be differences on the details of how to move forward; however, we believe our shared concern for the problem can help us find the path to a responsible solution.

We look forward to receiving additional information on the president's latest job training proposal, and to working with you and the president on reforms that will better serve workers, employers, and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

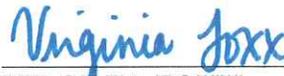


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JOHN KLINE

Chairman

Committee on Education and the Workforce



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VIRGINIA FOXX

Chairwoman

Subcommittee on Higher Education and  
Workforce Training