

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 07/12/07

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: "Thank You" Correspondence – Senators Boxer and Feinstein

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only

DISCUSSION: Attached are responses from Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein expressing their gratitude for letters sent on behalf of the Workforce Investment Board requesting the restoration of Workforce Investment Act funding to FY 2005 levels.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Letter, May 3, 2007

E-mail, June 14, 2007

United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 112
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505
(202) 224-3553
<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact>

May 3, 2007

Andrea Baker
1880 Wardrobe Avenue
Merced CA 95340

Dear Ms. Baker:

Thank you for writing to me regarding federal funding for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs. I appreciate hearing from you, and I share your strong support for these important and successful job training programs.

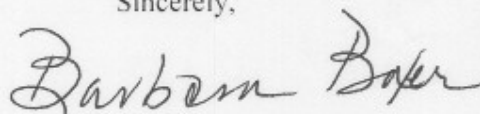
As you noted, the President's fiscal year 2008 budget proposal would cut \$1 billion (19 percent) from WIA and employment services programs. WIA formula programs would be cut by \$639 million, with another \$335 rescission of current-year formula funding. If approved, these cuts would force One Stop Career Centers around the country to close their doors, greatly diminishing our ability to train America's most valuable economic resource – our workers.

I believe that our nation cannot afford this false economy. That is why I recently joined Maria Cantwell, Susan Collins, and other Senate colleagues in writing to Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (R-PA), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. We asked the Subcommittee to restore funding to FY05 levels for WIA and employment services programs in the FY08 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill.

Restoring funding for WIA and related programs is an essential step in sustaining an American workforce that can fill highly skilled jobs and an economy that can compete successfully in the global marketplace. As the appropriations process continues, be assured that I will keep fighting to restore this much-needed funding and reinvigorate these vital programs.

Again, thank you for writing to me. Please contact me again about this or other issues of concern to you.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

From: <senator@feinstein.senate.gov>
To: <abaker@co.merced.ca.us>
Date: 6/14/2007 3:17 PM
Subject: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein responding to your message

Dear Ms. Baker:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). I appreciate hearing from you and welcome the opportunity to respond.

As a former Mayor, I have witnessed first hand the importance of job training programs to communities across California. One of my primary goals as a U.S. Senator is to help enable unemployed Californians to find work, and the WIA plays an important role in achieving that goal.

As you may know, President Bush's fiscal year 2008 budget proposal would cut WIA and employment services programs by \$1 billion. I joined a number of my colleagues in sending a letter to the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, urging that funding for WIA and Employment Service programs be restored to the fiscal year 2005 enacted level of \$4.15 billion. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, please be assured that I will keep your support for WIA and employment services programs in mind as the Committee considers appropriations later this year.

Once again, thank you for writing to me. I hope you will continue to keep me informed on issues of importance to you. Should you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to call my Washington, D.C. staff at (202) 224-3841. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Further information about my position on issues of concern to California and the Nation are available at my website <http://feinstein.senate.gov>. You can also receive electronic e-mail updates by subscribing to my e-mail list at <http://feinstein.senate.gov/issue.html>.