

**TO: Workforce Investment Board**

**DATE: 11/08/07**

**FROM: WIB Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Dear Colleague Letters**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.**

**DISCUSSION: Letters were sent to Congressman Cardoza, Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer to encourage them to sign on to a “Dear Colleague” letter expressing support to eliminate the proposed \$335 million rescission to current Workforce Investment Act formula funding in HR 3043. California’s loss of funding from this rescission is estimated at \$39,231,534 or 15,693 people losing services.**

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

**Letter to Congressman Cardoza**

**Letter to Senator Feinstein**

**Letter to Senator Boxer**



# WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

MERCED COUNTY

October 3, 2007

Robert Harmon, Chair  
Albert Montejano, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Don Bergman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
1880 West Wardrobe Ave. Merced, CA 95341  
Phone (209) 725-3593 FAX (209) 725-3592  
[www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wib/wib.html](http://www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wib/wib.html)

The Honorable Dennis Cardoza  
435 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cardoza:

This letter is to express our strong encouragement for you to sign on to the Dear Colleague letter expressing support to eliminate the proposed \$335 million rescission to current WIA formula funding in H.R. 3043. California's loss of funding from this rescission is estimated at \$39,231,534, or 15,693 people losing services.

The attached Dear Colleague letter from Congressman Tierney (D-MA) and Ric Keller (R-FL) is being sent to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to respectfully voice our opposition and to enlist their support in eliminating this rescission from the final bill.

State and local workforce leaders have been cutting staff and essential services for workers and businesses during a time when a housing market crisis is devastating the California economy. A recent California Kiplinger Letter stated that Merced is among the top three counties in the nation for home foreclosures according to a national survey. The latest unemployment figures for the State are at 5.5 percent compared to 4.9 percent one year earlier. Merced County has the second highest unemployment rate in the State at 9.8 percent. Our neighbors to the North and South are not doing much better. We in Merced shut down our Livingston One-Stop at the beginning of the program year. This rescission will seriously damage our service delivery system.

We strongly urge your support for this FY 08 Dear Colleague Letter seeking to eliminate this effort to rescind \$335 million from our formula funding. Your support will help give much needed services to businesses and job seekers and give our economy the boost it needs.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Andrea T. Baker  
Executive Director

*"Merced County's Workforce Investment system will keep pace with the new growth, the emerging economy, and the ever changing needs of the employers by creating a better educated, highly skilled workforce, that's capable, and prepared, and thoroughly knowledgeable."*



# WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

MERCED COUNTY

October 31, 2007

Robert Harmon, Chair  
Albert Montejano, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Don Bergman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
1880 West Wardrobe Ave. Merced, CA 95341  
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[www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wib/wib.html](http://www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wib/wib.html)

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Hart Senate Office Building Room 331  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Merced County Workforce Investment Board would like to express our strong encouragement for you to sign on to the Cantwell/Collins Dear Colleague letter expressing support to eliminate the 2008 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriation's \$335 million rescission to current WIA formula funding. California's loss of funding from this rescission is estimated at \$39,231,534, or 15,693 people losing services.

While the Nation has taken a little over a 7 percent cut in formula funding, California has taken a 45 percent cut. State and local workforce leaders have been cutting staff and essential services for workers and businesses during a time when a housing market crisis is devastating the California economy. Merced is among the top three counties in the nation for home foreclosures according to a national survey. The latest unemployment figures for the State are at 5.5 percent compared to 4.9 percent one year earlier. Merced County has the second highest unemployment rate in the State at 9.8 percent. We have been forced to close one of three One-Stops at the beginning of the program year. This rescission will seriously damage our service delivery system.

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The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

The Merced County Workforce Investment Board would like to express our strong encouragement for you to sign on to the Cantwell/Collins Dear Colleague letter expressing support to eliminate the 2008 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriation's \$335 million rescission to current WIA formula funding. California's loss of funding from this rescission is estimated at \$39,231,534, or 15,693 people losing services.

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