

**TO: WIB**

**DATE: 03/17/11**

**FROM: Staff**

**For Discussion**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**SUBJECT: WIA Advocacy - Continued**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Workforce Investment Board support the effort for advocacy and continued funding of the Workforce Investment Act.**

**DISCUSSION: In 1998 Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The WIA is the basis for the existence of the WIB and currently supplies close to 100% of the funding for the Department of Workforce Investment (WI) to service adults, dislocated workers, and youth participants. These funds empower WI to provide numerous employment related services to thousands of area residents each year.**

**At the beginning of March of this year, the House of Representatives passed HR 1(the Continuing Reslolution - CR) which actually cuts WIA funding and will result in the elimination of the program for the upcoming fiscal year. The Senate is currently reviewing the CR and will have to decide whether to support the cuts put forth in HR 1. There may be a decision by the time the WIB convenes for this meeting. Advisors believe this funding battle involving WIA funding will go on for at least another two years. There is a strong call for advocacy to protect these programs and continue to provide services for our clients who need them so desperately.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): None**