



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

April 1, 2021

PRESIDENT
Dennis Rodoni
4TH DISTRICT

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

VICE PRESIDENT
Judy Arnold
5TH DISTRICT

Subject: Relaunching America's Workforce Act - SUPPORT

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Damon Connolly
1ST DISTRICT

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Katie Rice
2ND DISTRICT

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, we applaud Congress' ongoing and bipartisan efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including legislation that has shored up our unemployment insurance system, expanded access to food and other needed assistance programs, and otherwise helped to blunt the immediate impact of the crisis on America's families, workers, businesses, and economy.

Stephanie Moulton-Peters
3RD DISTRICT

However, current investments in the workforce development system are not enough to meet the unprecedented challenges ahead facing our nations unemployed and dislocated workers, as well as our small businesses and companies.

Matthew H. Hymel
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK OF THE BOARD

Though the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a January unemployment rate of 6.3%, additional context shows a more dire situation for the U.S. By examining the functional unemployment rate, that is adding workers who are working part-time and are looking for full time work, as well as workers who make below the Federal poverty wage, [over 1 in 4 Americans were experiencing an unemployment crisis](#) last month. Workers and businesses desperately need Congress to include vital investments in skills that workers need to fill in-demand jobs today and to return to the workforce once our economy reopens.

Diane Patterson
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD

We urge Congress to pass the Relaunching America's Workforce Act (RAWA), and invest \$15.6 billion in our nation's workforce development system, to ensure that we can respond quickly to current and projected demands for new workers in key industries, while helping those who have lost their jobs as a result of this crisis to transition to new family-supporting jobs.

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Funding of this magnitude will be necessary to allow for services aimed at assisting the millions of Americans who will need help navigating the new unemployment and reemployment process in this time of crisis and businesses working to reskill and upskill workers. It will help workers identify careers in in-demand industries and occupations, seek the education and training needed for these careers, and access supports like childcare and transportation that can help them succeed in training and in new jobs. It will ensure businesses are able to inform training provided in in-demand occupations and empower states and local areas to support access and analysis of labor market information necessary for rapid response to regional needs.

RAWA also includes key provisions that provide flexibility to our nation's workforce system at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the way training and learning takes place. Such provisions such as allowing local workforce boards to use up to 40 percent of locally allocated funds for incumbent worker

training, and allowing local workforce boards to use up to 40 percent of funds for subsidizing transitional jobs, including for public sector employment. Such emergency provisions will allow our nation's workforce boards, labor unions, community and technical colleges, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to respond more quickly and efficiently to our current crisis.

Our Nation's workforce system stands ready to assist in getting U.S workers and businesses the skills they need for today's challenges and tomorrow's economic resurgence. Unfortunately, current investments in the U.S. workforce system fall short of the needs of workers, businesses, and communities. The U.S. invests 25 percent less in workforce programming today than we did before the great recession. During that downturn, the workforce system experienced a more than 200 percent increase in the number of Americans seeking reemployment and training services. At that time, Congress responded with a 40 percent increase in funding for employment and training assistance through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act – enabling the nation's workforce system to serve more than 8 million people in 2009. Today's crisis is even more acute and necessitates a more drastic investment to meet current and future need.

Again, we urge Congress to pass the Relaunching America's Workforce Act, and provide the \$15.6 billion so desperately needed to the nation's workforce development system, including programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that are designed to serve adults, dislocated workers and opportunity youth.

We thank you for your continued efforts to mitigate the harmful impacts of this pandemic on US workers and businesses, and we look forward to working with your offices to make sure our next legislative response includes necessary investments in our most important resource: our people.

Sincerely,



Dennis Rodoni, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors

cc: Marin County Board of Supervisors
Congressman Jared Huffman
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Alex Padilla