



National Coalition For Literacy

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Casey, Chairman
Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Employment and Workforce Safety
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chairwoman
Committee on the Budget
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

July 30, 2013

Dear Senators Harkin, Alexander, Casey, Isakson, and Murray:

On behalf of the National Coalition for Literacy (NCL), a coalition of leading national and regional organizations dedicated to advancing adult education, family literacy, and English language acquisition in the U.S., I am writing in support of the bipartisan bill, the *Workforce Investment Act of 2013 (S. 1356)*. We commend you and your staff for the outstanding work accomplished to craft this bill and thank you for your commitment to adult education programs and learners.

NCL is a member organization representing 36 national organizations working in adult education and family literacy. Our mission is to advance adult education, family literacy, and English language acquisition in the U.S. by increasing public awareness for the need to increase funding and programs; promoting effective public policy; and serving as an authoritative resource on national adult education issues.

We applaud the efforts to create an adult education system designed to meet the needs of a changing economy which often demands higher levels of education for workers to ensure self-sufficiency. The bill improves the adult education system to meet these changing needs and promotes college and career readiness for all adult learners. We are particularly pleased to see many long-standing priorities in the bill that NCL and others in the education community have supported for some time, including:

- The emphasis on postsecondary transitions and career pathway programs for adult learners while not diminishing the needs of learners with the lowest levels of literacy.
- Better alignment and coordination of adult education and literacy programs with workforce programs through joint planning and a shared system of accountability.
- A required state professional development system to support the teaching workforce.
- A codification of the English language and civics education (EL/Civics) grant program.

We look forward to continuing to work with the HELP Committee as the reauthorization process continues. Thank you again for your leadership and dedication to this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Martin Finsterbusch'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Finsterbusch
Executive Director, ValueUSA
NCL President, 2012-2013