

12 March 2021

Honorable Adam Smith  
2264 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

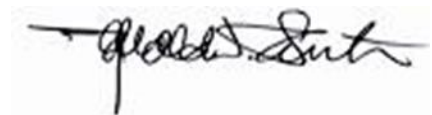
On behalf of the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), I want to thank you for soliciting our organization's opinion and input as you crafted *The Emergency Economic Adjustment Assistance and Workforce System Resiliency Act (EEAA)*. We are most pleased to support the proposed legislation and assist in any way possible to help with passage.

In particular, NAWB supports these particular elements of the EEAA:

- Raising the awareness, necessity, and potentially the funding for state and locals to more proactively work with businesses to avoid layoffs;
- Acknowledgment that local workforce development boards (WDBs) are the heartbeat of a local workforce development system, and that local solutions are the best solutions when given the resources and flexibility to design and deploy those solutions;
- The intentionality of prioritizing businesses that offer competitive wage and benefits, not only saying their workers are valued, but actually demonstrating that;
- Recognition of populations that have experienced barriers to the labor market and the need to explicitly design outreach and engagement strategies in the state's plan for the funds; and
- Recognition and allowing local WDBs to be more supportive of entrepreneurship and employee-owned companies.

Americans learned many lessons during the last recession that we need to bear in mind as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these lessons is that long-term unemployed workers face challenges and require a differing variety of services. Therefore, efforts to avoid lay-offs pay large dividends in their "preventative" value. NAWB would like to thank you for being a leader and advocate for workforce development. Your legislation and your work helps prepare the American workforce to withstand the challenges of an ever-changing global economy. We look forward to working with your office to advance the legislation.

Sincerely,



Ronald D Painter, CEO