



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 21 – 24, 2024

### Resolution on Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- WHEREAS,** a skilled workforce is the bedrock of success for states, their communities and their citizens;
- WHEREAS,** innovation in workforce policy is the focus of the Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair's Initiative of Ohio Sen. Bill Reineke, chair of the MLC in 2024;
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the primary federal workforce development law and an essential funding source for state-administered workforce development systems, policies and activities;
- WHEREAS,** WIOA was enacted in 2014 with bipartisan congressional support and the authorization of appropriations for its various programs and activities through FY 2020;
- WHEREAS,** since the end of fiscal year 2020, in the absence of a congressional reauthorization, annual congressional appropriations have been required to extend WIOA programs and activities;
- WHEREAS,** significant changes in the labor market, as well as the workforce needs of workers and employers, have occurred since WIOA's enactment in 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** A Stronger Workforce for America Act would reauthorize WIOA through fiscal year 2030 and was passed by the U.S. House in April, 2024, with bipartisan support, now therefore be it;
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) supports several new provisions in the U.S. House-passed Stronger Workforce for America Act that reflect state-level needs, innovations and priorities, including:
- flexibility to identify critical industry sectors and implement sector-based strategies that upskill workers in these high-demand areas;

*Adopted this 24th day of July, 2024 at the 78<sup>th</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio*

- an expansion of work-based learning opportunities for young people and of workforce education programs at community colleges that align with in-demand jobs;
- a greater emphasis on meeting the employment and training needs of justice-involved youths and adults who were formerly incarcerated;
- codification of a grant program for community colleges to build sector-based career pathways programs in high-demand fields; and
- support of state efforts to strengthen data systems relied upon by policymakers to make informed decisions on workforce policy; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the MLC urges congressional reauthorization and modernization of WIOA through the passage of A Stronger Workforce for America Act; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of the U.S. Congress and other appropriate federal officials.

*Adopted this 24th day of July, 2024 at the 78<sup>th</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio*