



May 2, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader of the House
233 Canon H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Pelosi, Senator McConnell and Senator Reid;

On behalf of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), we support the newly established Commission on Evidence Based Policy Making from Public Law 114-140 (H.R. 1831), but believe there is a perspective missing. We respectfully request your consideration for state administrators of the public workforce system to either participate and/or be utilized by the Commission.

States are a crucial partner of the federal government in funding and administering public workforce programs, and have important responsibilities safeguarding data and developing solutions to integrate and share data. The recently enacted Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) highlights and elevates these responsibilities, requiring states to develop integrated data systems across a range of workforce development, education and human services programs. The Commission's goals to find the best way to organize, protect and analyze data to improve public policy can better be accomplished with the involvement and expertise of state partners.

Additionally, states have a rich history innovating in these areas and working with federal partners to test new approaches using rigorous designs. The resulting evidence has been critical to policy development. In the workforce development area alone, states have helped build a twenty-five year history of evidence on the value of reemployment services for UI claimants. While funding for states to analyze data and conduct evaluations has dwindled, state interest remains strong, more should be done, and the federal government cannot move forward alone.

We look forward to your consideration of utilizing the state administrators of the public workforce system and supporting the Commission's mission.

Sincerely,



Dale Peinecke, Commissioner
Washington State Employment Security Department
NASWA Board President



Scott B. Sanders, Executive Director
NASWA

NASWA is a national organization of state administrators of the publicly-funded state workforce system, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), employment services, training programs, unemployment insurance, employment statistics and labor market information. NASWA's goal is to drive the national workforce agenda by providing policy expertise on workforce development, including unemployment insurance issues that support transition to new jobs and careers.