

1996

Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Correspondence 04

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Giuliani, Rudolph W., "Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Correspondence 04" (1996). *Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976)*. Paper 55.
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

May 17, 1996

Honorable Nancy L. Kassebaum
United States Senate
SR - 302
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kassebaum:

As Mayor of the nation's largest and most diverse city, I wish to express New York City's grave concern about the latest proposal developed by the staff of the Conference Committee on H.R. 1617, the CAREERS Act, and S. 143, the Workforce Development Act. While we wholeheartedly support current Congressional efforts to consolidate, streamline and reform the nation's fragmented workforce development system, the City is profoundly concerned that the role of local elected officials in the nation's job training system would virtually be eliminated, thereby reducing the efficacy of local workforce development boards.

New York City strongly opposes the following provisions currently under consideration which would (1) Limit the role of local elected officials only to appointment authority for their respective local workforce development boards; (2) Eliminate the authority of local elected officials to review and approve local workforce development plans and budgets; (3) Eliminate the authority of local elected officials to review and evaluate locally operated training and employment programs; and (4) Grant Governors wide discretion to set performance standards without input from localities and with no performance standards set at the national level.

In consolidating employment and training services, we strongly believe that local governance, local coordination and local accountability are the cornerstones of an effective workforce development system. Local elected officials, who will bear the responsibility for the effective delivery of services to their communities, should play an important role in the design and implementation of their local workforce development systems. I urge the members of the Conference Committee to restore fully the role of local elected officials in the design and implementation of the local workforce development system.

Honorable Nancy L. Kassebaum

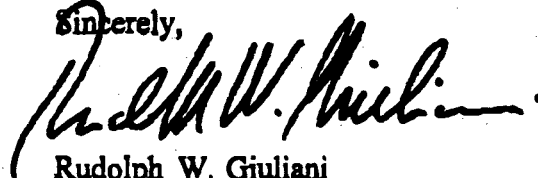
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I would like to remind the Conference Committee that large urban areas like New York City also have specific concerns with regard to the legislation's educational component. New York City prefers the House bill's set-aside for adult literacy programming and we support the Senate bill's set-aside for the School to Work Opportunities Act initiative. In addition, we prefer the House bill's more comprehensive list of state and local uses of Youth Block Grant Funds and Local In-School Youth Funds. Finally, New York City believes that the conference report should provide for local flexibility in the administration of all funding, especially since many of the educational funds are currently used in conjunction with local funding and local programming. We also urge the Conference Committee to adopt a substate funding formula which reflects the diverse needs of large urban areas.

Thank you for your consideration of our City's concerns on this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Rudolph W. Giuliani
Mayor

cc: Members of the Workforce Development Legislation Conference Committee
New York Delegation