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Consolidated and Reformed Workforce  
Development and Literacy Act (1976)

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5-16-1996

## Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Correspondence 07

Neil E. Bomberg

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Bomberg, Neil E., "Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Correspondence 07" (1996). *Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976)*. Paper 52.

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Date: May 16, 1996

To: Ted Verheggen, Chief Labor Counsel, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

Carla Widener, Assistant Labor Counsel, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

Omer Waddles, Job Training Advisor, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

James Eagen, Staff Director, House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

Mary Gardner Claggett, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

Brian Kennedy, Labor Counsel, House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

From: Neil E. Bomberg, Associate Legislative Director

Subject: The Role of Local Elected Officials in Workforce Development

*May follow to Arney's staff  
to complete*

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Over the last several days, hundreds of county elected officials and private sector representatives from around the nation have been contacting by phone the offices of Sen. Nancy L. Kassebaum and Rep. William Goodling and by fax and letter the offices of Sens. Kassebaum and Edward M. Kennedy and Reps. Goodling and Pat Williams. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you copies of the faxes that we have received at NACo. We believe that these faxes document the interest of county elected officials and others in the outcome of the workforce development conference committee's efforts and their commitment to a workforce development system in which accountability is a major thrust.

The message which we at NACo and our county elected officials wish to convey to you is that if we are to have an effective, viable and accountable workforce development system we need:

1. Strong local workforce development boards with programmatic and fiscal responsibility for workforce development programs operating in their areas; and
2. Strong involvement of local elected officials in the workforce development system, including:
  - authority to appoint local workforce development boards;
  - review and approval of local workforce development plans, budgets and one-stop systems; and
  - review and evaluation authority with local workforce development boards for locally operating job training and employment programs.



May 16, 1996

The Role of Local Elected Officials in the Nation's Workforce Development System

We also believe that accountability to taxpayers and constituents for results is critical. Because federal funds support the workforce development system, the final bill must establish the federal government as a full partner in determining measurable goals and objectives, expected levels of performance for state and local areas, and approving plans.

Since local variation in workforce development needs and opportunities is substantial, local elected officials in cooperation with local business representatives must have a key role in the development and implementation of programs that will operate within their communities.

If I can be of further assistance to you as you proceed with the work of the conference please let me know. I can be reached at 202/942-4205.