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Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): News Article 01

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NEWS

The United States Conference of Mayors

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May 21, 1996

Conference of Mayors President Rice Praises President Clinton for Support of Stronger Role for Mayors in Pending Workforce Development Legislation

Conference of Mayors President Seattle Mayor Norman Rice today commended President Clinton for supporting a strong role for local elected officials in pending workforce development legislation in a letter to Senator Nancy Kassebaum (KS).

"I am delighted that President Clinton has become actively engaged in the conference negotiations on workforce development legislation," said Mayor Norm Rice. "It is clear that the President is deeply concerned for those who are affected by this bill, particularly dislocated workers, disadvantaged adults, and young people at-risk--many of whom live in our nation's cities. I am particularly pleased that a significant role for the local elected official is included in the President's concerns."

In the May 20 letter to Sen. Kassebaum, Chair of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, President Clinton stated, "elected officials from our cities and counties must have responsibility for administering and overseeing local One-Stop Career Centers and job training funds, through workforce development boards that bring together business and labor and other community leaders to plan and develop job training programs appropriate to their communities."

Mayors from across the country are deeply disturbed by suggestions from conferees that their role be severely limited in the new workforce development legislation and welcome support from the President.

After seven months of staff negotiations, the conferees are scheduled to meet today, the first of several meetings to take place before recess.

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