



March 13, 2019

The Honorable Stephanie Murphy
Florida – 7th District
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
Indiana – 2nd District
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Xochitl Torres Small
New Mexico – 2nd District
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Darin Lahood
Illinois – 18th District
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Murphy, Walorski, Small and Lahood:

We are writing on behalf of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) to support the Bridge for Workers Act and express our appreciation of your bipartisan effort to authorize the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) program as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P. L. 115-245).

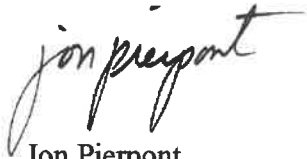
Until the passage of the Act, RESEA had been limited to a widely-successful pilot grant program. Today, States around the nation now have the ability to accelerate unemployment insurance (UI) claimants' transition back to employment faster than non-participants, which is particularly important in an economy desperately in need of skilled workers.

To enhance these efforts, we are pleased to see the proposed minor statutory fix proposed in the Bridge for Workers Act that reflects your intent to ensure any UI claimant, not just those most likely to exhaust their benefits, are eligible for RESEA services and assessments. The current language in Section 306 of Act needs to be modified to ensure this intent is actualized and while the Appropriations Committee made such a modification in their FY 19 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, a permanent fix would provide clarity and stability for states actively focused on helping claimants return to work expeditiously.

NASWA is the national organization representing all 50 state workforce agencies, D.C. and U.S. territories. These agencies deliver training, employment, career, and business services, in addition to administering the unemployment insurance, veteran reemployment, and labor market information programs. NASWA provides policy expertise, shares promising state practices, and promotes state innovation and leadership in workforce development.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Pierpont". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon Pierpont
NASWA Board President
Executive Director,
Utah Department of Workforce Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott B. Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott B. Sanders
NASWA Executive Director