



March 8, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Danny Davis
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Subcommittee on Worker and Family
Support
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
Subcommittee on Worker and Family
Support
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Neal and Davis, and Ranking Members Brady and Walorski:

We are writing on behalf of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) to 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, federal 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.

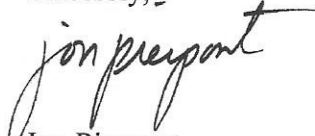
To enhance these efforts, we encourage a minor statutory fix to the Act that reflects your intent to ensure any UI claimant, not just those most likely to exhaust their benefits, are eligible for RESEA services and assessments. The current language in Section 306 of Act needs to be modified to ensure this intent is actualized and while the Appropriations Committee made such a modification in their FY19 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,



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



Scott B. Sanders
Executive Director
NASWA