



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

## **Issues for Discussion with U.S. Department of Labor Transition Team**

### **Meeting with:**

**Michael Bird, Senior Federal Affairs Counsel**

**Denise Hinton, Committee Director, Labor and Economic Development**

**Robert Strange, Policy Associate, Education, Labor and Economic Development**

**(303)364-7800**

**DOL Agency Review Team Representation:**

**Mona Mohib**

---

## **I. Workforce Investment Act**

### **a. Reauthorization**

i. NCSL supports the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and support additional efforts to strengthen the system and offer the following recommendations:

- Maintain state legislative authority to appropriate workforce investment funds
- Maintain state flexibility
- Fully fund WIA at FY 2005 levels
- Fully fund Youth Services and maximize linkages between WIA Youth Services and Career and Technical Education Programs
- Any consolidation of WIA and other activities should maintain existing financial commitments to state-federal partnership programs
- Fully fund and support the infrastructure costs of the One-Stop Centers
- Encourage Voluntary Coordination of TANF and child support
- Make significant improvements to the WIA
- Streamline reporting and performance standards
- Fully engage America's businesses in the workforce system

### **b. Other item from members:**

- i. Workforce Boards: Congress and the new Administration should examine the structure, engagement and effectiveness of the workforce boards.
- ii. Technology: Reauthorization should adequately fund and allow state flexibility to ensure that one-stops are equipped with the latest technology to better serve their workforce needs. WIA should also allow states to conduct virtual interviews (via phone or computers) with one-stop customers.
- iii. WIA should provide a good balance of the needs of workers and employers and should have some focus on emerging workforce needs



- ii. **Unemployment Insurance**
  - a. NCSL applauds recent federal efforts to expand unemployment insurance benefits, but encourages that the extensions make available adequate administrative funding for states.