

April 2, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Ways & Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Neal, Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Brady and Ranking Member Wyden:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our support for the continuation of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), and urge you to enact a seamless, permanent extension of the program prior to its expiration on December 31, 2019.

Our organizations represent a wide variety of constituencies, industries, employers and stakeholders. We have seen the positive impact WOTC has on local communities by encouraging employers to hire individuals who face significant barriers to employment.

WOTC is a cost-effective, anti-poverty hiring incentive that contributes to economic growth by helping structurally unemployed individuals move off public assistance and into the workforce. This helps reduce individuals' dependence on entitlement programs and results in substantial savings for federal and state governments.

In particular, the most recent five-year extension of the program enacted in 2015 significantly increased hiring by employers of individuals on public assistance programs, veterans and people with disabilities. According to the Department of Labor's most recent statistics, over 2.2 million WOTC certifications were issued in fiscal year 2018 compared to 1.3 million in fiscal year 2014.

We appreciate your past efforts in support of WOTC and urge you to act in a timely manner on a permanent extension of this important program.

Sincerely,

Associated General Contractors of America
American Staffing Association
Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) International
Colorado-CURE
Feeding America
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
iFoster
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Partners for Rural America
National Grocers Association
National Employment Opportunity Network
National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce
National Restaurant Association
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Society for Human Resource Management