

2012 -- S 2303

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LC00846  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, P Fogarty, Lynch, and DaPonte

Date Introduced: February 01, 2012

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1           WHEREAS, The United States Congress is considering an appropriations bill that would  
2 significantly cut funding to federal workforce programs including the Adult, Dislocated Worker,  
3 and Youth programs authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA); and

4           WHEREAS, WIA is the major funding source for the employment and training programs  
5 in the states, including education, placement, and business support services; and

6           WHEREAS, WIA appropriations help fund Rhode Island's comprehensive One-Stop  
7 Career Centers, local Workforce Investment Boards, contextualized training, innovative industry  
8 partnerships, and a myriad of other services designed to improve the skill level and work  
9 preparedness of Rhode Island's workforce; and

10          WHEREAS, Programs funded by WIA provide a valuable service to our business  
11 community by helping to provide a 21st century skilled workforce that is designed to meet the  
12 needs of Rhode Island employers who are struggling to recover from the recent recession; and

13          WHEREAS, Over the past two years, the Department of Labor and Training estimates  
14 that WIA programs have assisted over 33,600 Rhode Islanders in their efforts to obtain new skills  
15 and secure employment; and

16          WHEREAS, A significant reduction in federal WIA funding would devastate the  
17 workforce development system in Rhode Island, resulting in fewer training and retraining  
18 opportunities for unemployed job seekers, reducing funds for valuable on-the-job training,  
19 reducing funding for the state's Rapid Response layoff aversion program, reducing the number of

1 work experience and career exploration programs for vulnerable at-risk youth, and hindering the  
2 development and enhancement of a workforce that can compete in the global economy; now,  
3 therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
5 hereby strongly urges and implores Congress to fully fund the Workforce Investment Act, the  
6 cornerstone of the state workforce system that provides vital services to the unemployed, under-  
7 employed, and employers as they try to rebound from the recent recession; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, to the  
10 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the Honorable Jack Reed and Sheldon  
11 Whitehouse, United States Senators, and to the Honorable James R. Langevin and David N.  
12 Cicilline, United States Representatives.

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