


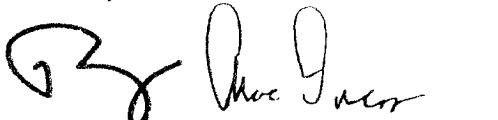
proposed implementing regulations. We encourage you and your staff members to review the proposed regulations and provide us with your comments through www.regulations.gov. The Departments also plan to issue supplemental guidance to support implementation.

We are committed to working with you to fully implement WIOA and welcome your thoughts and suggestions as we move forward. Thank you for your continued partnership to better serve youth, job seekers, employers, and workers, including those with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Perez
Secretary of Labor



Arne Duncan
Secretary of Education

MAR - 4 2015



Dear Governor:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed on July 22, 2014, created an extraordinary opportunity for the publicly funded workforce development system to improve job and career options for our nation's workers, job seekers, and youth through an integrated, job-driven public workforce system. As Governor, WIOA gives you the opportunity to play a significant role in successfully implementing the law and realizing the vision of WIOA. We seek your engagement as we move forward with this important work.

WIOA brings together, in strategic coordination, core Federal programs in skill development: employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth, administered by the Department of Labor (DOL); adult education and literacy programs, administered by the Department of Education (ED); and the vocational rehabilitation program, also administered by ED, that assists individuals with disabilities, including youth with disabilities, in achieving positive employment outcomes. In an effort to align these Federally funded programs further, WIOA requires States to develop a single, unified strategic plan for these programs; encourages States to include additional partners in such planning; establishes common performance measures for all core programs to ensure consistent performance accountability across the programs and States; and emphasizes quality, integrated, accessible services through a one-stop system. WIOA also emphasizes customer choice and services to employers, and quality education and training that leads to industry-recognized credentials, work-based learning, sector strategies, and career pathways.

We encourage you to work with your state and local workforce development agencies to begin the planning process and support strategic investment and alignment across workforce system programs. This early planning is essential for the smooth implementation of the WIOA requirements. As you may know, most of the WIOA requirements take effect on July 1, 2015, with the exception of a few targeted provisions, such as those contained in Title IV, which amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and took effect upon enactment. In an effort to assist in your planning process, we have provided extensive information through webinars and Town Halls and will continue to provide information and resources to help you and other stakeholders prepare for implementation. To that end, we have developed comprehensive online resources that are accessible at DOL's website, www.doleta.gov/WIOA, and ED's websites, www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ose/rsawioa-reauthorization.html, and www.ed.gov/AEFLA. We will update these websites as appropriate.

In addition, we plan to publish several Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRMs) this spring, three that would implement program-specific requirements for each of the core programs under WIOA, and another that would implement jointly administered activities affecting all core programs. These NPRMs will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the