A Message from Ron Painter

February is Black History Month. When it comes to the public workforce, there is still a long road ahead of us to achieve equity and COVID-19 has overwhelmingly affected minority business owners and workers. Last month, the United States lost 140,000 jobs - all held by women with a majority of that job loss women of color, and we cannot work toward replacing these jobs without adequate funding for skills training. However, the House and Senate are rapidly working on major numbers for the overall budget and appropriations decisions. We appreciate those of you who have amplified our voice on the Hill by emailing your Members of Congress in support of workforce funding - please do so if you have not.

The numbers in the labor force impacted by the pandemic are staggering. The long-term unemployed numbers continue to grow, and they are even more alarming when you consider that it takes 27 weeks of being unemployed to even hit this category. My latest reading tells ~1/3 of job losses are permanent. We must be persistent in pointing out what WDBs are doing, what needs Congress must meet, and the amount of funding this requires. I’m reminded of the old adage: "We the unwilling, led by the unknowing, have done so much with so little that we are now capable of doing great things with nothing." But we cannot do great things with little funds--which is why we have created advocacy documents for your use. Please contact Matt Bandstra at bandstram@nawb.org for more information.

Policy Updates

During last week's Senate HELP Committee hearing to consider Secretary of Labor nominee Marty Walsh, one thing was very apparent: President Biden's nominee understands work; the dignity of work, the personal challenges faced by members of the public workforce system and the need to expand job reskilling programs.

We also saw the reintroduction of the Relaunching America's Workforce Act, which authorizes funding to provide essential career services and help workers attain additional skills and credentials as the economy emerges from its deepest decline since the Great Depression. View our alert and analysis on the bill here.

- A full-scale advocacy effort must be implemented to increase the likelihood of this bill passing. NAWB is doing everything we can in Washington to push for this legislation and, we must ask that you do as well. Follow this link or click the button to the right to send a personalized email to your Members of Congress in less than one minute!
Support RAWA

Professional Development

Upcoming Professional Development Events:

- **02/18 - Town Hall - SNAP E&T 101**
- **02/26 - Coffee & Conversations: Regional Workforce Legislation**

Recent Professional Development Recordings (members only):

- **Town Hall: Supporting Dislocated Workers**
- **Town Hall: Policy Updates from the Hill**
- **Town Hall: Tesla Partnership with Workforce Board**
- **Town Hall: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation - Talent Financing**

VIEW MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Strategic Partner Announcements

**MedCerts is Our Newest Business & Industry Alliance Champion!**

Last week, MedCerts became the newest champion for NAWB’s Business & Industry Alliance. MedCerts is a national online training provider strengthening the workforce and creating better, more accessible career opportunities for everyone. Focused on certifications in high-demand areas of Allied Healthcare and IT, the eLearning school serves individuals from all backgrounds, including military and their families, career changers and the under-and-unemployed.

“MedCerts has long been inspired by NAWB and their impact in workforce development,” says Jason Aubrey, MedCerts CEO. “We are honored to join the Business & Industry Alliance Champions and are excited to help more individuals enter into meaningful careers and build stronger communities through this partnership.”

New RFP's

**WorkForce Central (Pierce County, WA) - RFP for Young Adult Services**


**The Southwest Tennessee Workforce Development Board - Multiple RFP's**

- [Title I Adult & Dislocated Worker Service Provider](https://workforce-central.org/2020/11/18/rifps-young-adult/)
- **One-Stop Operator**
- **Youth Service Provider**

**The Workforce Connection, Illinois - RFP for One-Stop Operator & Title I-B Career Services for Adults and Dislocated Workers**


**VIEW All RFPs**

**Become a Member**

NAWB's mission is to support its members through a comprehensive program of advocacy, training and technical assistance, communication, and the promotion of strategic partnerships for the advancement of our nation's workforce.

If you would like to become a NAWB member, please visit the NAWB Membership page at [https://www.nawb.org/membership](https://www.nawb.org/membership).

**Learn about exclusive member benefits—including access to Coffee and Conversations.**

If you want to renew your membership and already sent in your payment, please email Nathan Kelley at [KelleyN@nawb.org](mailto:KelleyN@nawb.org) so that we can make sure to be on the lookout for its arrival.

**VISIT THE MEMBERSHIP PAGE**

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**National Association of Workforce Boards | Website**

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