

# Education, Workforce and Community Investment Task Force



Governor Toy Evers  
Co-Chair  
Wisconsin



Governor Mark Gordon  
Co-Chair  
Wyoming

## OUR JURISDICTION

The Education, Workforce and Community Investment Task Force has organizational jurisdiction over a broad range of issues including Labor and Workforce Development, Career and Technical Skills, PreK-12 Education, Postsecondary Education, Criminal Justice, Housing, and Agriculture.

## OUR PRIORITIES

Farm Bill Reauthorization, ensuring resiliency and rural revitalization;

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Reauthorization and improving workforce training in postsecondary education;

Ensure states and territories have adequate time and resources to spend remaining Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, especially for ongoing academic recovery efforts and upgrading school facilities;

Support state and territory efforts to finance new housing, including workforce housing and housing for public sector employees (i.e., teachers, firefighters, agriculture inspectors, and law enforcement);

Support efforts to strengthen public safety and reduce recidivism.

## OUR WORK

### Task Force Congressional Briefing on WIOA

In June 2024, the NGA Task Force held a virtual congressional briefing on the possible reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and strengthening the public workforce system. The briefing was titled "Governors' Perspective on WIOA: What Works, What Doesn't, and What Should Come Next." Both Co-Chair offices provided an overview of the workforce systems in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Idaho. To lead the in-depth analysis of WIOA, Jess Kostelnik and Nick Moore, the Governor workforce leads in Colorado and Alabama, discussed the strengths and weaknesses of WIOA. Staff from across the House and Senate listened in and joined the discussion.

### Sending Funding Priorities to Congress

In May 2024, the Task Force wrote to House and Senate Appropriators expressing support for funding priorities that fall within its jurisdiction. Those priorities include funding for programs within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and funding for apprenticeships. The funding request also called for continued investment in state and local law enforcement programs, affordable housing programs, farm bill and rural development programs, as well as the need to modernize state unemployment insurance systems and make them more resilient to economic downturns.

### 2024 NGA Winter Meeting Task Force Session on Strategies to Sustain and Enhance Agricultural Prosperity

In February 2024, the Task Force held a session during the NGA Winter Meeting led by Task Force Co-Chairs Idaho Governor Brad Little and USVI Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. The focus was on strategies to sustain and enhance agricultural prosperity through provisions put forth in the Farm Bill. Colorado Governor Jared Polis, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek, and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers were among the participants in the discussion, joined by panelists Jennifer Lester Moffit, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Ted McKinney, CEO, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

### Governors Urge Congress to Pass Tax Measures, Including Proposals for Affordable Housing

In January 2024, Utah Governor Spencer Cox, the NGA Chair, and Colorado Governor Jared Polis, the Vice Chair, jointly issued a statement endorsing the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. This statement followed the introduction and House committee markup of the act, emphasizing its significance in promoting American innovation and competitiveness. The Governors highlighted the act's role in ensuring that residents and businesses receive essential resources after disasters and establishing a sustainable path to affordable housing options. This statement release aligns with a priority of the Task Force, focusing on enhancing the supply and affordability of workforce housing.

### Governors Send Priorities to Reauthorize the Farm Bill to Congress

In September 2023, Task Force Co-Chairs Idaho Governor Brad Little and USVI Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. sent a letter to Congressional leaders. Their purpose was to articulate essential Farm Bill priorities deserving consideration and inclusion in the forthcoming authorization of the legislation. This comprehensive list of priorities spans across the twelve existing titles of the Farm Bill. It emerged from an exhaustive process involving consultation with Governors regarding their agricultural concerns, and it took into account insights from the Public Health and Disaster Response Task Force, particularly concerning nutritional priorities. The Task Force Co-Chairs underscored the significance of the upcoming Farm Bill as an opportunity for Congress to reaffirm its commitment to supporting the states and territories. They specifically emphasized the pivotal roles of rural and urban communities, farmers, ranchers, and individuals in need of food assistance.

### Task Force Engagement on WIOA Reauthorization

The NGA Task Force staff have continued to advocate for the Task Force priority to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and strengthening the public workforce system. This has involved advocating for the Task Force priority with Congress, crafting a website that covers state and territory WIOA Title I allocations since 2014, and working with the U.S. Department of Labor on WIOA state planning.

## Members

Governor Kay Ivey  
Alabama  
Governor Jared Polis  
Colorado  
Governor Brad Little  
Idaho  
Governor Mike Parson  
Missouri  
Governor Tina Kotek  
Oregon  
Governor Dan McKee  
Rhode Island  
Governor Albert Bryan Jr.  
Virgin Islands

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