



To Whom It May Concern

Date: 4/10/2026

On behalf of STAAR Foundation, I am writing to express our strong support for maintaining Oklahoma's current structure of local workforce development boards, including the Oklahoma's Workforce Board (OWB)/Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board (COWIB), as outlined under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

As a community-based partner, we have directly experienced the value of working with our local workforce board. In particular, collaboratively referring our STAAR Foundation graduates to COWIB. These boards play a critical role in aligning workforce strategies with the unique needs of regional economies, ensuring that services are responsive, relevant, and effective for both job seekers and employers.

Local workforce boards serve as essential conveners of community-based partnerships. Through their leadership, organizations like ours are able to collaborate with businesses, education providers, and support service agencies to address workforce challenges in a coordinated and meaningful way. This local connection cannot be replicated through a centralized, one-size fits all system.

Oklahoma's workforce system is strongest when it balances statewide coordination with local expertise. This current structure allows for innovation, responsiveness, and collaboration at the community-level key elements that drive successful outcomes under WIOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and for your continued commitment to strengthening Oklahoma's workforce.

Sincerely,

Gerald Scott  
Founder/Executive Director  
STAAR Foundation

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