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February 8, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
 United States Senate  
 SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of S. 200, the *Relaunching America's Workforce Act of 2020*.

S. 200 would invest \$15 billion in our nation's workforce training system, to support millions of workers who have lost their jobs or are under-employed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Relaunching America's Workforce Act of 2020* would provide both immediate and long term supports to the U.S. workforce. The proposed funding structure in the legislation mirrors the proven approach from the 2009 *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* to direct funding for the workforce system through existing channels to get resources to the local level as quickly as possible. This legislation focuses on maintaining core elements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) while increasing flexibility so more funding can be used for training, supportive services, and career services.

The *Relaunching America's Workforce Act of 2020* would greatly improve the ability of local workforce and career and technical education systems to respond to the COVID-19 national emergency. Over the past decade, the federal government has decreased funding by 50 percent for workforce programs, while the present pandemic disruption has greatly increased the need for funding for these efforts. The funding provided by S. 200 would be well-invested in Santa Barbara County, through successful partnerships with the State Employment Development Department, two local community colleges, as well as putting WIOA-enrolled adults into sustainable wage, career pathway jobs, job fairs, and specialized recruitment events.

Thank you for your consideration of *Relaunching America's Workforce Act*.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest  
 Washington Representative

DWG: awg