

LOCAL 338
RWDSU/UFCW



**The
Business
Council**



NAACP



NEW YORK
**ALLIANCE FOR
INCLUSION & INNOVATION**



WNYHeroes, Inc.
Supporting Western New York Veterans

**NEW
YORK
CIDER
ASSOCIATION**



Community Services
FOR EVERY1



The Arc®
New York



The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
State of New York
New York State Capitol Bldg.
Albany, NY 12224



Dear Governor Hochul:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. As you know, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is an important federal tax that provides employers an incentive to hire individuals that have faced barriers to entering the workforce. The credit aims to increase workforce participation rates in many of our underserved and marginalized communities. WOTC supports business owners by providing them with a financial stimulus to invest in recruiting, training and hiring: helping to grow our economy and provide employment opportunities to those who have been left out of the workforce.

In 2024 nearly every state showed small businesses growing to some extent, with two exceptions: West Virginia, which saw no growth year over year, and New York, which saw a .05% decline compared to the year prior. This critical bill would further support NYS businesses by increasing the total amount of the WOTC credit by \$500 for each eligible individual hired. The maximum federal credit for many of the WOTC categories is \$2,400. An additional \$500 credit increases the overall value of the credit by 20% to help subsidize the increasing recruitment, training, and wage costs that employers are struggling with in NYS.

WOTC is a program that is both business-friendly and worker-friendly. If funded, it would create a NYS counterpart to the federal WOTC program, making WOTC more effective in achieving the goals of providing funds for recruitment, training, and job opportunities for ten categories of individuals, including eligible veterans, SNAP & TANF recipients, individuals with disabilities, second chance workers, and long-term unemployed individuals so they can have a pathway to entering the workforce.

We understand that NYS must be judicious in its budget process. However, WOTC is a unique opportunity to focus tax policy on addressing the needs of underserved communities and employers alike. In fact, increasing workforce participation among WOTC individuals helps to grow the economy. As the NYS Department of Labor already certifies WOTC applications the expansion of this program would be administratively effective with increased hiring in communities with lower workforce participation rates, relief provided to essential industries facing workforce shortages, and supporting NYS business owners.

We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in a bipartisan manner to fund WOTC in the NYS Budget.

Sincerely,

The Work Opportunities for New Yorkers Coalition

Membership Organizations Include:

The Arc New York
Blue Compass RV
Business Council of New York State
Capital District Area Labor Federation (CDALF), AFL-CIO
Commerce Chenango
Community Services for Every1
Cortland Area Chamber of Commerce
Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce
Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association
Fearless!
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies (IAC)
Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation
New York Association of Convenience Stores (NYACS)
New York Cider & Apple Association
New York Vision Rehabilitation Association
New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus
New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc. (NYSID)
Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Tavern & Restaurant Association
Pawsitive for Heroes
TEKsystems
Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce
WNYHeroes, Inc.