

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 24, 2026

The Honorable Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
Chair, Senate Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1534 (Irwin), Workforce development modernization for participant training – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Smallwood-Cuevas,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our support for AB 1534 (Irwin), which would update local workforce development performance requirements by replacing the current expenditure-based training mandate with a requirement that at least 50% of participants in Adult and Dislocated Worker programs receive workforce training services.

This proposed transition to a participant-based performance model aligns with how Kern County successfully operates its Employers' Training Resource (ETR) Department. ETR maintains strong partnerships with local employers, leverages high-value work-based training, and consistently exceeds state and federal program performance expectations. Moving away from rigid expenditure-percentage rules toward a clearer and more equitable measure of participant access to training will:

- Increase flexibility in meeting the workforce needs of rapidly changing industries
- Better support reskilling efforts in regions undergoing economic transition
- Provide a more accurate reflection of local program effectiveness
- Reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on local workforce boards

Counties like Kern, home to industries undergoing major transformation, including energy, agriculture, logistics, and advanced manufacturing, require responsive workforce policies that prioritize results rather than arbitrary spending thresholds. This bill does exactly that.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support this measure and respectfully urges your committee to vote **YES on AB 1534**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a large, stylized initial "P" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement Committee
 Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
 California Workforce Association
 Kern County Employers' Training Resource
 Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange