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To the Committee on Aging and Older Adult Services:

The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) expresses its strong support for House Bill No. 1743. Our work addresses both designing and implementing strategies needed to assist low-wage workers and former welfare clients in job retention and advancement and also shaping initiatives that repurpose the talents of retired workers. The proposed mentoring program would help low wage workers and address the desire of many mature workers to engage in an encore career that allows them to perform work that assists others. Many of them look for opportunities to use the skills they have acquired during their career in new ways.

Mentors can offer valuable support and guidance and make a significant difference to the success of low wage workers. The individual attention mentors provide helps the low wage workers deal more effectively with the ongoing challenges they face in the workplace. To ensure that the mentors are prepared for their role, the legislation should make provision for appropriate training and ongoing support. In addition, the mentors should receive compensation for the work they are doing, perhaps in the form of a stipend.

Sincerely,

Phyllis

Phyllis Snyder
Vice President
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