



G A O

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United States General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

June 17, 2004

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Labor

Dear Madam Secretary:

Subject: WIA Performance Data Quality (Job Code 130389)

At the request of Senator Edward Kennedy, Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety and Training, the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) is initiating a study of the Workforce Investment Act's (WIA) performance data quality. Our objectives are to assess: (1) the status of states' efforts to establish data systems and what safeguards are currently in place to protect data integrity and reliability, (2) what states are doing to implement Labor's new provisions for ensuring data quality, (3), if Labor's approach fully addresses data quality issues, and (4) whether there is adequate capacity at the federal, state, and local level to implement these provisions.

Education, Workforce, and Income Security staff will conduct the work and plans to begin work immediately. We anticipate doing work at the Employment and Training Administration's national office in Washington, D.C.

We would appreciate your notifying the appropriate Department of Labor officials of our plans. We will contact you in the near future to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions regarding this assignment, please contact Dianne Blank, Assistant Director, at (202) 512-5654 or blankd@gao.gov, or Laura Heald, Senior Analyst, at (202) 512-8701 or healdl@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

{Signed}

Cynthia M. Fagnoni
Managing Director
Education, Workforce, and
Income Security Issues