

May 16, 2011

Dear Member of Congress / Senator:

As you know, the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations subcommittee is seeking member requests as they begin consideration of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Labor-HHS appropriations bill. **We write to urge you to include in your list of FY 2012 priorities funding at FY 2010 levels, at a minimum, for employment and training programs under Labor-HHS's jurisdiction including the restoration of funding for programs cut under the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution.**

Unemployment rates remain at alarmingly high levels, despite our nation's economic growth, and have actually recently begun to climb again. The demand for job training has never been higher. Last year, more than 8 million individuals received training and other employment services funded under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act—a 234 percent increase in participation rates in just two years—while millions more received services or supports through the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services and the Unemployment Insurance program, as well as career and technical education and adult education programs under the Department of Education. These programs have helped Americans get back to work: more than 4.3 million WIA participants found jobs last year, and hundreds of thousands more received training and education that will help them prepare for new career opportunities.

Unfortunately, despite the ongoing need for these services, the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution included roughly \$1 billion in cuts to key employment, training, and career and adult education programs within the Departments of Labor and Education, including:

- More than \$300 million in cuts to state formula grants under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act;
- Nearly \$140 million in cuts to career and technical education state grants;
- Elimination of the year-round Pell grant program;
- Elimination of the Green Jobs Innovation Fund;
- More than \$20 million in cuts to YouthBuild;
- More than \$20 million in cuts to the Reintegration of Ex-offenders program;
- More than \$30 million for adult education programs; and
- More than \$375 million in cuts to the Community Service Employment for Older Americans program.

While not every organization signing this letter has a formal position for each of these specific programs, we are all concerned about the cumulative impact of cuts to workforce development programs and strongly oppose additional cuts to any federal employment or training programs. These cuts will impact veterans, at-risk youth, dislocated workers, low-income seniors, incumbent workers, and the disabled, and will deny access to employment services for tens of thousands of jobseekers. Any additional cuts to these or any other job training programs will

not only lead to further disruptions in services—including the likely closure of one-stop centers and training programs in communities across the country—but will impact the ability of our nation’s employers to find the skilled workers they need to fill immediate job openings and plan for future growth.

We recognize that Congress must make difficult choices from among a range of competing priorities, but we believe that the costs of further disinvestments in workforce development programs will far outweigh any savings that might be gained through such cuts. We hope you will demonstrate your support for workforce development by asking your colleagues on the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee to ensure that FY 2012 funding for key training and education programs is sufficient to sustain current (FY 2010) levels of service.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)

Asian American Justice Center (AAJC)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)

Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)

Building & Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Campaign for Community Change

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Coalition for Workforce Solutions (CWS)

Community Action Partnership

Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW)

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (CAAL)

Easter Seals

Goodwill

Insight Center for Community Economic Development

International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS)

Jobs for the Future (JFF)

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Legal Momentum

National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)

National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)
National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP)
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE)
National Employment Law Project (NELP)
National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS)
National Network of Sector Partners (NNSP)
National Skills Coalition
National Workforce Association (NWA)
National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC)
PHI – Quality Care through Quality Jobs
Public Justice Center
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
The Corps Network
The Eisen Group, LLC
United Autoworkers (UAW)
United Steelworkers (USW)
United Way Worldwide
USA Works!
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)
Workforce Learning Strategies
Workforce Strategies Initiative, The Aspen Institute
Workforce Strategy Center (WSC)
Working Poor Families Project