

March 2, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg  
Chairman, Labor-HHS-Education  
Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS-Education  
Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Dicks, Chairman Rehberg, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing to oppose in the strongest possible terms, the draconian cuts to employment and training funding that were included in H.R. 1, the House-passed FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (CR). The CR includes more than \$3.8 billion in cuts to employment and job training programs, including the **complete elimination of all funding for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in Program Year (PY) 2011.** Other programs targeted for deep cuts or outright elimination include the Perkins Career and Technical Education program, YouthBuild, Job Corps, green jobs training, reintegration of ex-offenders, and the Community Service Employment for Older Americans (CSEOA) program.

**The House Appropriations Committee explanation of its reductions to workforce programs in H.R. 1, attempts to minimize the effect of these cuts by stating, “these programs...have already received \$1.5 billion in advance funding available for the current fiscal year.” While it is true that \$1.5 billion was advanced this year as part of WIA’s 2010 allotment, these funds were intended to support WIA activities for the current 2010 program year—from October 2010 through June 2011. If the cuts to WIA in H.R. 1 become law, no new funds will be appropriated for workforce programs in PY 2011, and as a result, states and local communities will not receive new funding to enroll participants and operate programs beginning July 1 of this year.**

These funds help to create and fill jobs, prepare workers whose jobs have disappeared for new careers, and train the American workforce for the demands of a 21<sup>st</sup> century, global economy. The cuts included in the House CR impact current and future workers at all ages, incomes, and skill levels, and will be felt across the entire country.

As a result of these cuts, the 3000 One-Stop centers found in local communities across the country would have to begin the process of closing their doors, likely causing thousands of new job losses, and denying access to the more than 8 million workers who received Title I WIA-

funded services in the last year alone. At a time when one in four youth age 16-19 are unemployed, more than 7,000 young people will lose access to services under YouthBuild, as many as 10,000 more will lose access to services as a result of the cuts to Job Corps, and 276,000 youth will lose access to education, training, and work experiences resulting from cuts to WIA youth funds. Over 14 million students enrolled in school-based career and technical education programs supported by Perkins will see services and opportunities cut or even eliminated, and program quality diminished. As many as 50,000 low-income seniors will be denied part-time community-service jobs under the elimination of the CSEOA program. And veterans currently receiving priority services under WIA would have to find other sites at which to get the help they need to successfully transition back into the civilian workforce.

For the more than 14 million unemployed U.S. workers, the impact of dismantling the public workforce and adult education systems could not be more devastating. Many of these workers have been dislocated from jobs in declining industries that are unlikely to return even after the economy has fully recovered, meaning they must seek new skills and credentials in order to transition to new family-supporting careers in advanced manufacturing, health care, energy, and other high-growth sectors that are driving our nation's economic growth. Employers will also suffer from any significant disinvestments in the WIA system. Despite record unemployment, many employers—particularly the small and medium-sized businesses that account for the majority of new jobs being created—struggle to find workers with the skills and credentials to fill even current job openings and to plan for future growth due to uncertainty about the future workforce.

While we recognize that Congress faces difficult choices in today's fiscal climate, we ask that you continue to ensure fairness in all future budget and spending decisions. Eliminating federal investments in employment, basic skills education for low-skilled workers, career and technical education, and job training assistance will have an immediate impact on the ability of our more than 14 million unemployed to transition to new jobs, the ability of U.S. companies to find the skilled workers they need to take advantage of emerging business opportunities, and will have a long-term impact on our ability to compete in the global economy. As you work to reach an agreement with the Senate on a long-term CR, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject the proposed cuts to WIA and other critical job training programs under H.R. 1.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

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

American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)

Aspen Institute Workforce Strategies Initiative

Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)  
Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies  
Coalition on Human Needs (CHN)  
Coalition for Workforce Solutions (CWS)  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Community Action Partnership  
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW)  
The Corps Network  
Council for Advanced and Experiential Learning (CAEL)  
Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (CAAL)  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Georgetown Center for Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy  
Healthy Teen Network  
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Jobs for the Future (JFF)  
Legal Momentum  
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)  
National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium  
National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)  
National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP)  
The National Center on Family Homelessness  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Employment Law Project (NELP)  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National Network for Youth  
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)  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)  
Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP)  
Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)  
Working Poor Families Project