

*(Place on Business Letterhead)*

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Blunt, and Ranking Member Murray,

As your subcommittees consider the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you fully fund the Title I and Title II accounts at the level authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA authorized:

**Title I – Department of Labor**

- \$861.1 million for the Adult Account,
- \$922.2 million for the Youth Account, and
- \$1.37 billion for the Dislocated Worker Account

**Title II – Department of Education**

- \$649.287 million for Adult Education

These funds are critical to businesses in my state as they are directed **toward** identifying and hiring skilled workers and ‘upskilling’ our current workforce to further their development on a career pathway.

Increasingly, individuals seeking employment do not have the necessary education and training to fulfill the minimum requirements for open positions. According to the Texas Workforce Investment Council ‘s 2015 Survey of Texas Employers:

- Seventy-eight percent of employers surveyed from 12 industry sectors in Texas indicated that maintaining a skilled and flexible workforce is the most important factor to the future success of the company.
- More than two-thirds of businesses that tried to hire new workers in the past 12 months reported at least some difficulty in hiring qualified applicants.
- Businesses address the lack of qualified applicants through in-house trainers and on-the-job training. In this respect, difficulty in finding qualified applicants exerts real costs to the bottom line for Texas businesses.

Access to these services through the federal workforce system allows my business to focus on innovation and expansion while working with state and local workforce partners to continually find the talent needed to sustain that growth.

This training, support and business partnership is vital to our continued success in the future. I urge you to fund the Department of Labor Title I Accounts at the levels authorized by WIOA in the Fiscal Year 2018 LHHS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,