



a coalition of statewide  
workforce associations

November 17, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

The undersigned organizations make up the United States Workforce Association (USWA), a collaborative effort of local workforce boards, businesses, and organizations involved in workforce and economic development activities across the country. These organizations are directly involved in the implementation of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 specifically promoting the successful execution by local workforce boards of the law to serve businesses, employers, and job - and career-seekers.

Although the economy has steadily recovered over the last decade, businesses across the country are facing a critical issue that affects their ability to grow – the lack of workers. The causes are many but the underlying message is clear – middle class jobs are increasingly demanding higher skill levels and Americans lack the skills needed. The primary mechanism supporting upskilling America's workforce is WIOA, however the federal budget threatens significant reductions to resources available for employer-driven job-training, career pathways development, and apprenticeship programs around the country. Locally, WIOA funded programs are collaboratively designed and implemented by workforce boards, education and training partners, and employers to meet local worker demand. This evidence-based approach is getting potential workers off the sidelines and into employment, and helping low-wage workers advance to middle class jobs.

Absent a bipartisan budget deal for Fiscal Year 2018, federal discretionary programs, like job training, education, and apprenticeships, will face a mandatory sequestration cut. These programs have already sustained a more than 50% cut in the last decade. With sustained economic prosperity for America as a priority, we urge you to come together and agree to spending caps that allow for critical investments that further economic growth and improve individuals' lives.

By stabilizing the federal budget, the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill must fully fund all Titles I, II, III, and IV at the level authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The funding levels we are requesting in the FY2018 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill are listed below:

**Title I – Department of Labor**

- \$861.1 million for Adult Employment and Training Services,
- \$922.2 million for the Youth Activities, and
- \$1.37 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

**Title II – Department of Education**

- \$649.287 million for Adult Education

**Title III – Department of Labor**

- \$671,413,000 for Wagner-Peysner

**Title IV – Department of Education**

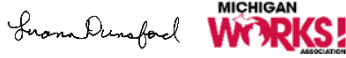
- \$3,302,053,000 for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

This training, support and business partnership is vital to our continued success in the future. We urge you to fund the Department of Labor Title I Accounts and Title II at the Department of Education at the levels authorized by WIOA in the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill. For further information, please contact Chris Andresen at (202) 851-3618.

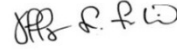
Sincerely,



Bob Lanter  
Executive Director  
California Workforce Association



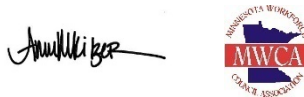
Luann Dunsford  
Chief Executive Officer  
Michigan Works! Association



John Trott  
President  
Ohio Workforce Association



Kelly Folks, President  
Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Association



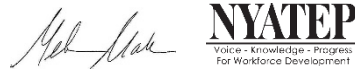
Anne Kilzer  
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Julie Courtney, Director  
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Melinda Mulawka Mack  
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New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals



Greg Vaughn  
Executive Director  
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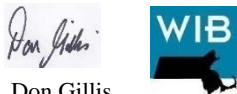
Ricki Kozumplik  
Indiana Workforce Board Association



Jeff Frederick  
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Mari Kay-Nabozny  
Chief Executive Officer  
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Don Gillis  
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Kirkland J. Murray, President  
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Jeanne Bennett, President  
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Bridget Dazey, Chair  
Oregon Workforce Partnership