



Submitting Organization – United States Workforce Associations

Prepared for: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

Agencies: Department of Labor, Department of Education

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 Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

The undersigned organizations make up the United States Workforce Association (USWA), a collaborative effort of local workforce boards, businesses, educational institutions, 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. With the country facing unprecedented demand for unemployment insurance and possible economic recession within the COVID-19 outbreak, the employer-led, local workforce development system must have the federal resources necessary to provide businesses with talent to begin the recovery. Adequate federal funding would ensure the system is poised to address these community needs.

As the Senate Appropriations Committee considers the Fiscal Year 2021 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill, we urge you to support further federal investment into WIOA and fully fund the law beyond its FY2020 authorized levels. Appropriated levels have fallen short of authorized levels specifically in Title I accounts at the Department of Labor (Adult Employment and Training Services, Youth Workforce Investment Activities, and Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services). An expanded federal investment across WIOA programs leads to more job training, education, skills development and innovative, proven practices like industry-based sector partnerships, career pathways, and apprenticeships. These strategies will need to be implemented seamlessly following the COVID-19 outbreak.

As our country grapples with the response to COVID-19, local leaders are engaged directly with businesses to help keep individuals employed. We are also working with the mass waves of unemployed individuals to help them stay connected to the workforce and evaluate other opportunities if they have been laid off. Emergency appropriations are greatly needed to address this unprecedented health, economic, and social destabilization but an increased federal investment will also address these funding concerns.

The Fiscal Year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill must fully fund all Titles I, II, III, and IV at a minimum to the level authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The funding levels we are requesting in the FY2021 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill are listed below:

Title I – Department of Labor

- At least \$899.987 million for Adult Employment and Training Services,
- At least \$963.837 million for Youth Workforce Investment Activities, and
- At least \$1.436 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

Title II – Department of Education

- \$678.640 million for Adult Education

Title III – Department of Labor

- \$667,000,000 for Wagner-Peyser (FY2020 Enacted)

Title IV – Department of Education

- \$3,610,040,000 for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (FY2020 Enacted)

Fiscal Year 2021 Administration Budget Proposal Language



We also wanted to highlight concerning language contained in the FY2021 Department of Labor Budget Proposal that would give Governors more authority to re-designate and consolidate local workforce boards. The budget proposal language would waive protections given to local control by circumventing Section 106 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Congress recognized that local economic conditions are best addressed at the local level when WIOA was passed in 2014. That local control is critical when dealing with employers and other stakeholders as we can address economic issues with flexible resources and innovative solutions. We oppose the language included in the budget and encourage you to further support local control within the federal workforce system.

This training, support and business partnership is vital to our country's economic prosperity. For further information, please contact Chris Andresen at (202) 851-3618.



Sincerely,



Bob Lanter
Executive Director
California Workforce Association



Luann Dunsford, CEO
Michigan Works! Association



John Trott
President
Ohio Workforce Association



Kelly Folks, President
Rocky Mountain Workforce
Development Association



Melinda Mulawka Mack
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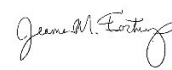
Heather Ficht, Chair
Oregon Workforce Partnership



Robin King, President
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Jeanna Fortney, Director
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Angela Carr Klitzsch, Chair
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