

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS), we urge you to include substantial investments in job training programs in the final bill.

FY 2017 reflects a critical point in our nation's workforce investment strategy, with states and localities implementing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Adequate funding is key for this potential to be realized – making the outcome of this year's budget and appropriations process critically important.

Building off of WIOA's passage, the Administration's FY 2017 budget request promotes a number of strategies to make federal job training programs more employer-led and connected to real jobs in local or regional labor markets. Those strategies include the *Opening Doors for Youth Initiative* to target job and skill training opportunities for youth and the *American Talent Compact*. In addition, the Administration has proposed funding for the Apprenticeship Training Fund, including funding to target youth inclusion in apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. Importantly, the budget proposes to build a system of career navigators to work with the long-term unemployed. We strongly urge you to include these elements of this job-driven action plan in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Without solid investments to achieve a skilled workforce, our nation's job growth and economic recovery will be limited. With meaningful investments, however, programs across the nation will help workers gain the skills to support themselves and their families and employers will have access to the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

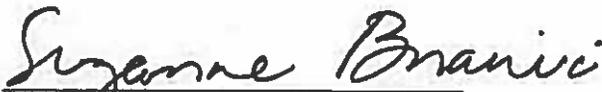
Specifically, we respectfully request that you:

- Fund WIOA Title I employment and training programs at the authorized levels so states, localities, and other partners can fully realize the bipartisan vision outlined by WIOA;
- Support adult education and literacy programs under WIOA Title II at the authorized levels so Americans are able to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities;

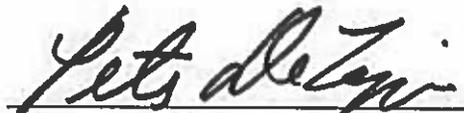
- Provide no less than \$680 million to Wagner/Peyser Employment Services activities under Title III of WIOA to give states necessary, additional resources to operate WIOA's intensive reemployment services;
- Fund vocational rehabilitation program and other employment services at levels authorized under WIOA Title IV for adults and students with disabilities;
- Continue to provide \$1 million for the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations program to help employers and labor unions recruit, train, and retain women for nontraditional employment opportunities; and
- Expand apprenticeships by renewing the \$90 million investment Congress made in 2016.

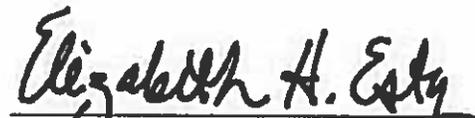
Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. We look forward to working with as we invest in the U.S. workforce to meet the needs of America's workers and businesses today and into the future.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

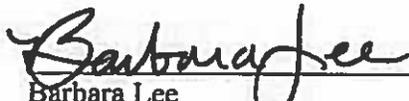

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

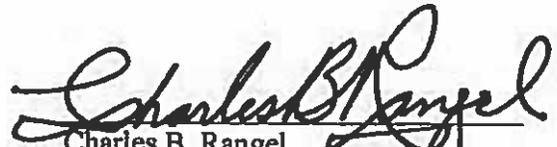

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

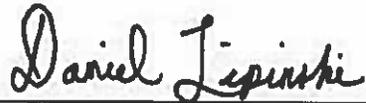

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

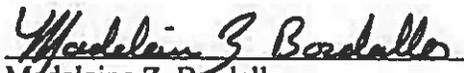

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

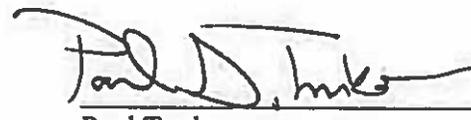

Barbara Lee
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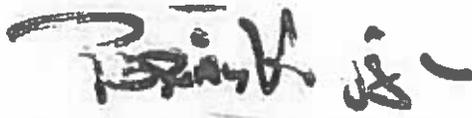

Charles B. Rangel
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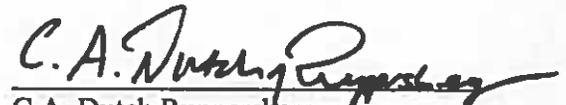

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

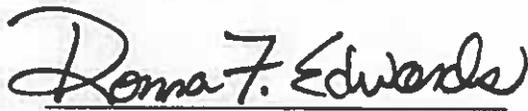

John Sarbanes
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Madeleine Z. Bordallo
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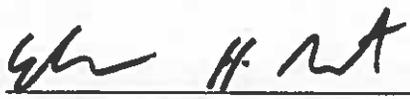

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

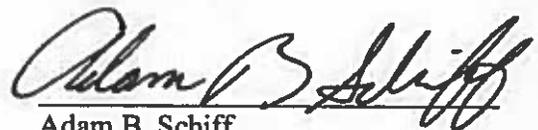

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

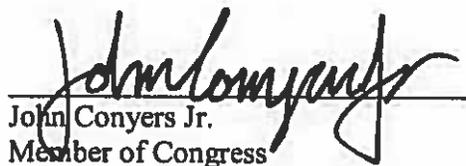

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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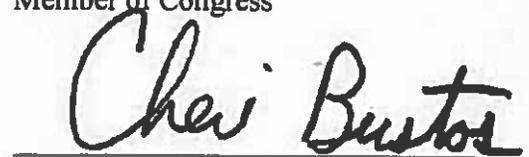

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

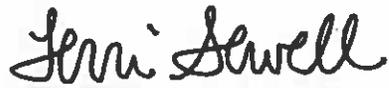

Rick Larsen
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Adam B. Schiff
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John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress

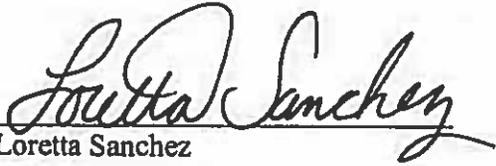

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



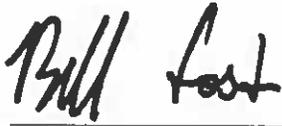
Sam Farr
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Loretta Sanchez
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Scott Peters
Member of Congress



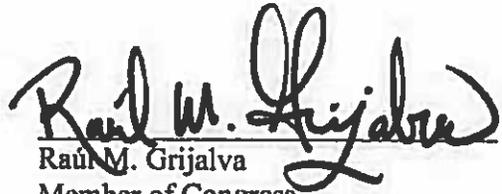
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



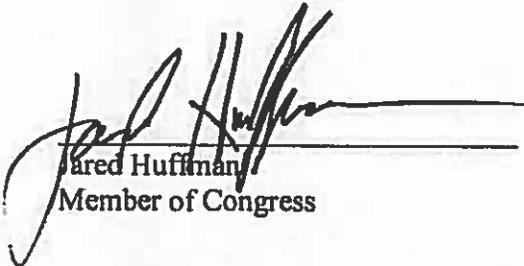
Dave Loebsack
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Mark Takano
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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



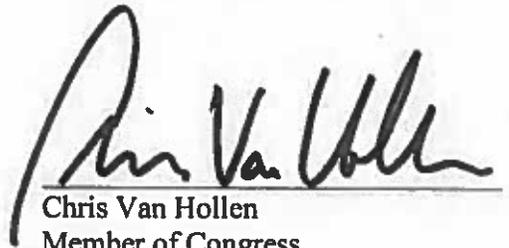
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



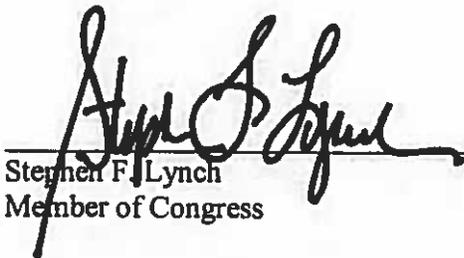
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



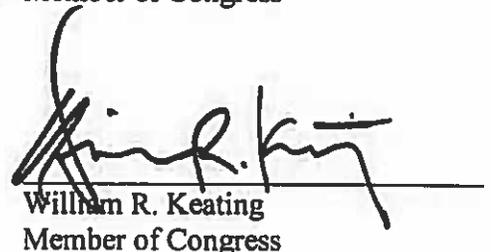
John K. Delaney
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Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

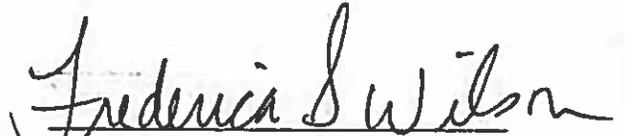


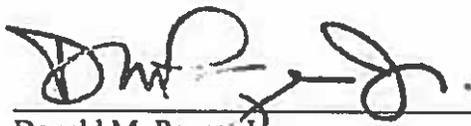
William R. Keating
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John Yarmuth
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Mark Pocan
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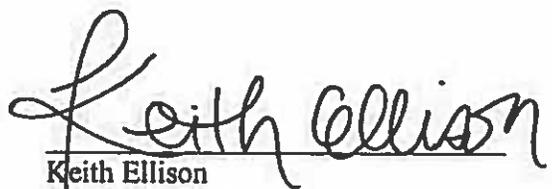

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

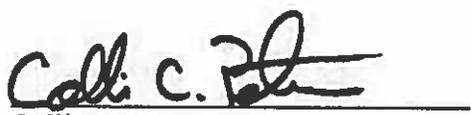

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

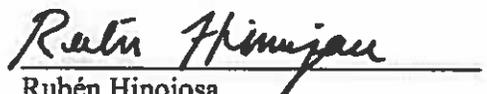

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress


Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

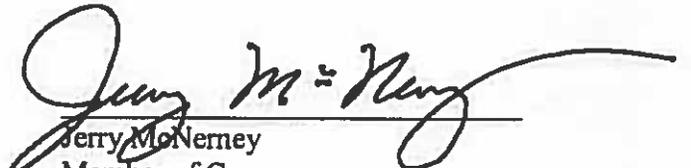

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

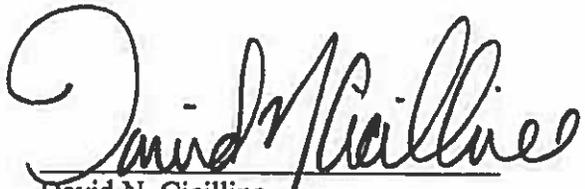

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

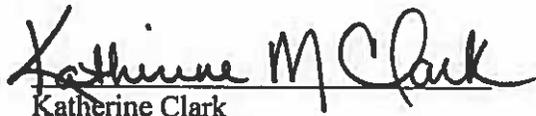

Rubén Hinojosa
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Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
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Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
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Danny K. Davis

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Alan Lowenthal

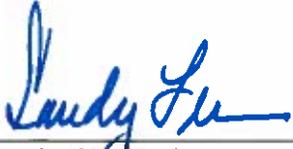
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

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Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress