

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 3, 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-131 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20150

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20150

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
131 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Byrd and Harkin and Ranking Members Cochran and Specter:

We write to voice our continued support for the nation's workforce programs and request a restoration of job training funds recently rescinded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 required states to return unspent funds from workforce programs for youth, adults and dislocated workers. While Congress was told the impact on states would be minimal, a recent hearing in the LHHS Subcommittee revealed that many states will dip into current year funding to pay their portion of the rescission. (A chart detailing the impact on states is attached.)

Indeed, state grants for employment and training programs for adults and low-income youth lose \$50 million and \$42 million respectively. And states must return \$158 million intended for dislocated worker programs which assist those who lose their job because of a plant closing or mass layoff.

This could not come at a worse time. In the first three months of 2008, the economy lost more than 240,000 jobs and today, more than 7.6 million Americans are currently unemployed, while another 6 million are marginally attached to the workforce.

Over 14 million workers, or one in ten workers nationally, will seek assistance from the nation's 3,200 one-stop career centers. However, because of the \$250 million rescission, states have returned badly needed job training dollars and are making plans to close and reduce services provided by one-stop offices.

With the reality of many Americans losing jobs, it's more important than ever to ensure resources are in place to retrain unemployed workers. With these new skills, individuals are more likely to find decent-paying jobs to support their families. Job training initiatives also help employers seeking to hire skilled workers by improving efficiency and productivity while easing some of the burden of training new employees.

If Congress moves a second stimulus bill, we would like to work with you to restore the \$250 million in job training funding for adult, youth and dislocated workers.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl



Maria Cantwell



Susan Collins

**Total Dollars Rescinded: State-by-State Analysis (All Data From USDOL)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>State/Region</b>	<b>2008 (\$)</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>State/Region</b>	<b>2008 (\$)</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
1	New York	38,438,058	17.2%	26	Kentucky	2,627,063	1.2%
2	Ohio	20,388,849	9.1%	27	New Jersey	2,606,366	1.2%
3	California	15,228,027	6.8%	28	Nebraska	2,382,038	1.1%
4	Indiana	11,186,095	5.0%	29	DC	2,345,102	1.0%
5	Florida	11,000,039	4.9%	30	Maryland	2,201,671	1.0%
6	Arizona	10,917,908	4.9%	31	Utah	1,950,791	0.9%
7	Tennessee	10,570,846	4.7%	32	Missouri	1,781,346	0.8%
8	Texas	10,399,356	4.7%	33	Massachusetts	1,781,140	0.8%
9	Oklahoma	10,352,253	4.6%	34	Alaska	1,436,763	0.6%
10	Georgia	9,673,413	4.3%	35	Iowa	1,347,865	0.6%
11	Colorado	8,935,962	4.0%	36	Minnesota	985,473	0.4%
12	Illinois	8,825,604	3.9%	37	South Dakota	937,432	0.4%
13	Michigan	6,210,659	2.8%	38	Connecticut	777,127	0.3%
14	South Carolina	5,869,580	2.6%	39	Wisconsin	735,872	0.3%
15	Kansas	5,753,097	2.6%	40	West Virginia	542,971	0.2%
16	Oregon	5,070,084	2.3%	41	Delaware	458,506	0.2%
17	Pennsylvania	4,911,738	2.2%	42	Nevada	437,987	0.2%
18	Virginia	4,797,339	2.1%	43	North Dakota	404,501	0.2%
19	Louisiana	4,623,608	2.1%	44	New Hampshire	386,969	0.2%
20	Arkansas	4,328,109	1.9%	45	Rhode Island	342,396	0.2%
21	Mississippi	3,502,361	1.6%	46	Maine	295,360	0.1%
22	New Mexico	3,462,770	1.5%	47	Wyoming	279,904	0.1%
23	North Carolina	3,199,535	1.4%	48	Hawaii	266,689	0.1%
24	Alabama	3,015,063	1.3%	49	Idaho	241,010	0.1%
25	Washington	2,949,204	1.3%	50	Montana	216,313	0.1%
				51	Vermont	159,879	0.1%