

December 12, 2012

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations urge Congress and the Administration to work together to protect funding for federal programs that provide critical services to communities across the nation. We strongly urge a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs, which have already done their part to reduce the deficit.

NDD programs serve core government functions that support economic growth, strengthen safety and security, and enrich the lives of every American in every state and community across the nation. NDD programs are not the reason behind our growing debt, representing just 3.4 percent of our country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2011. Under the bi-partisan Budget Control Act, by 2021 NDD funding will decline to just 2.5 percent of GDP, the lowest level in at least 50 years. Even completely eliminating all NDD programs would still not balance the budget. Yet NDD programs have borne the brunt of deficit reduction efforts so far. Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, NDD programs have been cut by 10 percent on average, with many programs cut by as much as 50 percent. These programs simply cannot absorb any additional cuts.

Federal workforce development programs will be deeply impacted by these cuts. Despite federal disinvestments of more than 30 percent since 2001 — with more than \$1 billion in cuts just since 2010 — critical employment and training programs stand to lose billions more under current proposals to reduce the federal deficit. Such cuts are already having an impact: a recent survey of workforce providers found that more than three quarters expected to reduce training as a result of already reduced funding levels, and nearly half believed they would have to cut back on services for employers seeking skilled workers. Workforce programs would be devastated by sequestration.

America's workers depend on these education and training programs. Last year, more than 9 million individuals received training and related services through the federally-supported workforce investment system — an increase of nearly 250 percent in just two years. Millions more received training and employment services through youth, career and technical education, green jobs, adult education, vocational rehabilitation, and veterans' programs that will help them pursue good jobs or further postsecondary education.

Additional funding cuts would shut the door on these hard-working individuals seeking employment, significantly limiting their access to the skills and credentials needed to succeed in today's labor market. In addition, it would stifle the ability of U.S. businesses to find the skilled workforce they need to take advantage of new markets and emerging economic opportunities, putting our nation at a competitive disadvantage at a time when other countries are ramping up their own investments in human capital.

There are more than 12 million unemployed U.S. workers and more than 3.5 million job openings waiting to be filled. Despite an unemployment rate that remains near 8 percent, employers say everyday they cannot find workers with the right skills. Yet, we are facing the steepest decline in federal investments in the skills of our nation’s workforce in recent history. Our workers and businesses can’t afford these cuts.

America’s economic future depends, at least in part, on the skills of its workforce. Although policymakers face difficult decisions, our nation must continue to invest in those skills to maintain our competitiveness in the global economy. While we recognize the challenging fiscal climate facing lawmakers, we simply cannot afford to make additional cuts to these important education and training programs. NDD programs—including federal employment and training programs—have already absorbed extremely deep funding cuts. Policymakers must stop targeting these programs as a means to balance the federal budget, and instead must adopt a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

We appreciate your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

1199 NE Training and Upgrading Fund	Hartford, CT
1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds	New York, NY
AccuRounds	Avon, MA
AFL-CIO	Washington, DC
Alternative Opportunities, Inc.	Springfield, MO
American Indian OIC	Minneapolis, MN
Amos House	Providence, RI
Arapahoe/Douglas Works!	Centennial, CO
Association of Iowa Workforce Partners	West Des Moines, IA
Baltimore Trades Guild	Baltimore, MD
Bell Policy Center	Denver, CO
Blue Green Alliance	Minneapolis, MN
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce	Brooklyn, NY
Brooks Consulting	Hayward, CA
Business Industrial Network	St. Louis, MO
California Community Colleges	Sacramento, CA
Calumet Area Industrial Commission	Chicago, IL
Career Ladders Project	Oakland, CA
Center for Employment Training	San Jose, CA
Center for Latino Progress – CPRF	Hartford, CT
Center on Policy Initiatives of San Diego	San Diego, CA
Central Vermont Community Action Council	Barre, VT
Champlain College	Burlington, VT
Chicago Department of Family & Support Services	Chicago, IL

Chicago Jobs Council	Chicago, IL
Chicago Workforce Investment Council	Chicago, IL
Citizen Action of Wisconsin Education Fund	Milwaukee, WI
Civic Works, Inc.	Baltimore, MD
CLASP	Washington, DC
Clean Air Coalition of Western New York	Buffalo, NY
Columbia River Economic Development Council	Vancouver, WA
Community Action Partnership	Washington, DC
Community Health Care Association of NYS	New York, NY
Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED)	Washington, DC
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce	Ann Arbor, MI
C-Tech	Sparta, NJ
CT Center for Advanced Technology	East Hartford, CT
CT Community College System	Hartford, CT
Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund	Hartford, CT
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning	Chicago, IL
DC Alliance of Youth Advocates	Washington, DC
DC Jobs Council	Washington, DC
Disruptive Innovations for Social Change	Grand Rapids, MI
District 1199c Training & Upgrading Fund	Philadelphia, PA
Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board	New Bern, NC
EBASE: East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy	Oakland, CA
Emerald Cities Collaborative	Washington, DC
Emergency Job Coalition	Chicago, IL
Employment & Employer Services	Chicago, IL
Erie Neighborhood House	Chicago, IL
Flint Strive	Flint, MI
Focus: HOPE	Detroit, MI
Forward Service Corporation	Madison, WI
Foundation for the Mid South	Jackson, MS
Fulton, Montgomery, and Schoharie Counties Workforce Development Board	Amsterdam, NY
FRESC: Good Jobs, Strong Communities	Denver, CO
Garden State Employment & Training Association	Westampton, NJ
Garraty Workforce Investment	Hummelstown, PA
Georgetown Public Policy Institute	Washington, DC
Georgia Stand-Up	Atlanta, GA
Goldie's Place	Chicago, IL
Goodwill Easter Seals	Mobile, AL
Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network	Cincinnati, OH
Greater West Town Community Development Project	Chicago, IL
Green for All	Oakland, CA
Grundy Livingston Kankakee Workforce Board	Kankakee, IL

Hamline University
Heartland Alliance
High Country Workforce Development Board
IBEW Local 43
Idea Fuel
IEC Chesapeake
Indiana Institute for Working Families
Innovate+Educate
Insight Center for Community Economic Development
International Association for Appropriate & Sustainable
Technology
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services
Iowa@Work
Iowa Comprehensive Human Services
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
Jane Addams Resource Center
Jersey Cape DT & O Center
JEVS Human Services
Jewish Family & Children's Service
Jewish Vocational Service
Jewish Vocational Services of Greater Boston
Jobs for the Future
Jobs with Justice
Jostin Construction, Inc.
Kirkwood Community College
Labor Institute for Training
Lane Workforce Partnership
Levin Energy Partners, LLC
LifeWork Design
Local Initiative Support Corporation
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles/OC Environmental Training Center
LTC Career Training, Inc.
Maine Marine Trades Association
Manufacturing Technology Institute, Richard J.
Daley College
Marine Industry Training and Education Council
Maryland Governor's Workforce Investment Board
Metropolitan Community College-Business
& Technology Campus
Mid-South Peace and Justice Center
Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board
Saint Paul, MN
Chicago, IL
Boone, NC
Boston, MA
Skokie, IL
Odenton, MD
Indianapolis, IN
Santa Fe, NM
Oakland, CA
Lakewood, CO
Philadelphia, PA
Davenport, IA
Des Moines, IA
Jackson, MI
Chicago, IL
Cape May Court House, NJ
Philadelphia, PA
Pittsburgh, PA
San Francisco, CA
Boston, MA
Washington, DC
Washington, DC
Cincinnati, OH
Cedar Rapids, IA
Indianapolis, IN
Eugene, OR
Bloomfield Hills, MI
Arlington, MA
Indianapolis, IN
Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles, CA
Anaheim, CA
Neptune, NJ
Biddeford, ME
Chicago, IL
St. Augustine, FL
Baltimore, MD
Kansas City, MO
Memphis, TN
Milwaukee, WI

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities	White Bear Lake, MN
Minnesota Workforce Council Association	Saint Paul, MN
National Fund for Workforce Solutions	Boston, MA
National Skills Coalition	Washington, DC
NCWE	Bellingham, WA
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition	New York, NY
New Ways to Work	Sebastopol, CA
New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals	Albany, NY
NoFailEdu.com	Streetsboro, OH
North Carolina Rural Center	Raleigh, NC
Northeast Ohio Center for Advanced Manufacturing	Berlin Center, OH
Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board	Ashland, WI
OAI, Inc.	Chicago, IL
Occupational Training Institute	Cupertino, CA
Ocean County Workforce Investment Board	Toms River, NJ
Ohio Workforce Coalition	Fremont, OH
Optimax Systems, Inc.	Ontario, NY
Partnership for Working Families	Washington, DC
Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce, Inc.	Marlborough, MA
Pasadena Youth Center	Pasadena, CA
Pennsylvania Partners	Camp Hill, PA
People's Emergency Center	Philadelphia, PA
Peter Kwass Consulting	Somerville, MA
PHI—Quality Care through Quality Jobs	Washington, DC
Philadelphia Works	Philadelphia, PA
Pittsburgh United	Pittsburgh, PA
Planet ADD Coaching	Shrewsbury, MA
Poder Learning Center	Chicago, IL
Policy Planning Partners	Chicago, IL
Portland Community College	Portland, OR
Power Broker Magazine	St. Petersburg, FL
Prairie State College	Chicago Heights, IL
Project YES	Ceres, CA
Puget Sound SAGE	Seattle, WA
Quality Career Services	Saint Paul, MN
RDP Consulting	Oakland, CA
Rhode Island Governor's Workforce Investment Board	Cranston, RI
Rhode Island Adult Education Professional Development Center	Warwick, RI
RIRAL	Woonsocket, RI
Seattle Jobs Initiative	Seattle, WA
SEMCA Michigan Works	Taylor, MI

SER—Jobs for Progress	Miami Springs, FL
SER Jobs for Progress, Orange County, CA	Santa Ana, CA
SER Metro-Detroit	Detroit, MI
SkillWorks	Boston, MA
SLATE	St. Louis, MO
South by North Strategies, Ltd.	Chapel Hill, NC
South Lane WIA Program	Eugene, OR
Southeastern Massachusetts SER—Jobs for Progress, Inc.	Fall River, MA
Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board (Workforce Connections)	Las Vegas, NV
Step to Enrichment, Inc.	Chicago, IL
St. Nicks Alliance	Brooklyn, NY
Strive International	New York, NY
The Bridge Network International	Chicago, IL
The CABET Group, Inc.	Chicago, IL
The Economic Progress Institute	Providence, RI
The Eisen Group	Washington, DC
The Osborne Association, Inc.	Bronx, NY
The Rhode Island Workforce Alliance	Providence, RI
Think, Then Move	Philadelphia, PA
Training Education Administrators of Missouri Training, Inc.	St. Louis, MO
Training Inc. National Association	Indianapolis, IN
Trumbull County One Stop/TCDJFS	Jamaica Plains, MA
Towards Employment	Warren, OH
United Way of Central Iowa	Cleveland, OH
United Way of Greater Cincinnati	Des Moines, IA
United Way of Greenville County	Cincinnati, OH
United Way of Northern Kentucky	Greenville, SC
United Way of Rhode Island	Ft. Mitchell, KY
Vermillion County Job Training Partnership	Providence, RI
Vermont Adult Learning	Danville, IL
Vermont Works for Women	Waterbury, VT
VocRehab Vermont	Winooski, VT
Wesley Community Center	Waterbury, VT
West Suburban Jobs Council	Houston, TX
Western Michigan University CTE Program	Naperville, IL
Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership	Kalamazoo, MI
Women Employed	Milwaukee, WI
Work Force Job Center Harrisonburg	Chicago, IL
Work Force Job Center	Harrisonburg, VA
Work into Spanish Publications	Luray, VA
	Agoura, CA

Workforce Development Board of South Central WI	Madison, WI
Workforce Development, Inc.	Rochester, MN
Workforce Development of Western Missouri, Inc.	Sedalia, MO
Workforce Investment Board of Southwest Missouri	Joplin, MO
Workforce One Investment Board of Southwest Ohio	Cincinnati, OH
Working Poor Families Project	Chevy Chase, MD
Worksystems, Inc.	Portland, OR
WSOS Community Action	Fremont, OH
Yancey County Economic Development Commission	Burnsville, NC
Young & McQueen Grading Co., Inc.	Sparta, NJ
YouthBuild USA	Somerville, MA
Youth Employment Program	Carlsbad, CA