

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman/woman _____:

As you work in Washington to craft a second stimulus to address the current economic crisis, I am writing to request that you increase funding for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs in the package.

Today, Main Street America is in economic trouble. America has lost nearly 800,000 jobs in the last nine months. Unemployment is now at 6.1%, and is projected to rise to over 7.5% next year. When underemployment is included, unemployment is projected to reach 9 percent.

WIA programs directly assist those most impacted by the economic downturn by helping workers get the job training they need to return to work. We should immediately dispatch assistance directly to the American people through an increase in WIA funding, to provide crucial services to those laid off from their jobs and struggling to pay bills.

As the unemployment rate continues to rise, demand for WIA services will continue to increase. As such, I ask that you support the inclusion of expanded WIA funding in the next stimulus package.

We greatly appreciate the \$500 million for WIA programs already included in the economic stimulus package which passed the House last month, and I strongly urge you to ask Speaker Pelosi to ensure that this funding is increased to serve America's workers in these challenging economic times.