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**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 Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
House Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

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. Adequate federal funding would ensure the system is poised to address the many employer and job seeker needs as we continue to deal with a dynamic and changing economy.

As the House Appropriations Committee considers the Fiscal Year 2024 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. The established local workforce system is well-positioned to enhance efforts for an equitable recovery; low wage, low skill workers and minority populations were hit hardest by COVID-19 and continue to struggle. The federal funding structure, which allows these funds to be invested locally, provides for intentional investments to help those most in need (as required by WIOA).

Local workforce development leaders are engaged directly with businesses and training providers to help keep individuals employed and design training/education programs to prepare the workforce for the future. We continue working with job seekers to help them maintain and develop skills to qualify for in-demand jobs in their local community.

In the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, several long-term, significant investments in infrastructure and semiconductor manufacturing were approved through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and The CHIPS and Science Act. These investments have the potential to provide career opportunities for thousands of Americans

and prepare our economy for another generation of prosperity. Focusing on these areas are critical to our nation's long-term competitiveness and rely heavily on a skilled American workforce. Now is the time for Congress, through the FY2024 Appropriations, to further advance these goals by fully funding workforce development and job training programs.

Importantly, the broader construction and semiconductor industries already carry massive labor shortages.<sup>1</sup> The skilled workers for those positions do not exist today. The local workforce development system can be another partner for these industries as they identify the necessary skills for the current and future jobs. We can work with community colleges and other training providers to scale up existing programming and develop new programs to meet these needs. Those individuals who could be upskilled for these jobs are facing multiple barriers to training an employment like lack of transportation, child care, etc. Dynamic partnerships already exist in communities to address these barriers but combining an increased federal investment with industry priorities for these issues can make a huge difference.

The Fiscal Year 2024 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 FY2024 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 \$1.519 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

**Title II – Department of Education**

- \$759.167 million for Adult Education

**Title III – Department of Labor**

- \$723.862 million for Wagner-Peyser

**Title IV – Department of Education**

- \$4.253 billion for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/entryid/19777/construction-workforce-shortage-tops-half-a-million-in-2023-says-abc>

This training, support and business partnership is vital to our country's economic prosperity. For further information, please contact Chris Andresen at (703) 201-1351.

Sincerely,

Arizona Workforce Association  
California Workforce Association  
Florida Workforce Development Association  
Illinois Workforce Partnership  
Indiana Workforce Board Association  
Iowa Association of Workforce Boards  
Maryland Workforce Association  
Massachusetts Workforce Association  
Michigan Works! Association  
Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards  
New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP)  
North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards  
Ohio Workforce Association  
Oregon Workforce Partnership  
Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association  
Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Association (RMWDA)  
Texas Association of Workforce Boards  
Virginia Association of Workforce Directors  
Washington Workforce Association  
Wisconsin Workforce Development Association