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June 17, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the Nation's State Workforce Agencies, we urge your Subcommittee to fully restore the 15 percent governors' Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) set-aside in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 appropriations.

When Congress passed WIOA last year, it reserved 15 percent of the law's funding to help governors spur economic growth through statewide job training activities. Despite this strong affirmation of the set-aside, FY 2015 appropriations only reserved 10 percent, the first year of WIOA implementation. While this represented a \$36 million increase versus FY 2014, **it is \$130 million less than the full authorized amount.**

The partial increases in the set-aside helped the nation's state workforce agencies revive and supplement programs that focus on rigorous reemployment assessments and services, assist the long-term unemployed, help military service members transition into jobs, create regional sector-based training programs, facilitate subsidized employment opportunities, enhance technology at the nation's one-stop career centers for self-serve participants and ramp up incumbent worker training.

Restoring the full set-aside and maintaining it at the 15 percent level will create certainty for critical statewide programs that ensure workers get the training necessary for today's modern economy and achieve the innovations in WIOA as the new law moves into its second implementation year.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Ellen Golombek  
President, NASWA  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of  
Labor and Employment

Scott B. Sanders  
Executive Director  
NASWA

Curt Eysink  
President-Elect, NASWA  
Executive Director  
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