June 16, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole  The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee on Labor-HHS ED
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

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 this request.

Sincerely,

Ellen Golombek  Scott B. Sanders  Curt Eysink  Mark Henry
President, NASWA Executive Director President-Elect, NASWA Executive Director Past-President, NASWA
Executive Director NASWA Executive Director Executive Director
Colorado Department of Louisiana Workforce Mississippi Department
Labor and Employment Commission of Security