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## **U.S. House Resolution Bill Passed, Local Workforce Will Feel The Impact!**

(St. Paul, MN) -- Last week, the US House of Representatives passed HR1, Continuing Resolution of the 2011 Fiscal Year. In a time of deep job deficit, the House drastically slashed funding supportive of the past, present and future workforce system. This legislation includes the elimination of all funding for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), a total of over \$3.6 billion, and a \$175 million rescission of prior year funds. The US Senate will take action on this issue this week.

During the worst economy since the Great Depression, the House cuts would wipe out all new funding for state and local programs under WIA, which provide employment and training services for unemployed Minnesotans and businesses that strive to rebound from the recession.

The nation's WIA programs play a vitally important role in helping America's workers find new jobs and get the training they need to make career changes in a very tough economy. The WIA programs served a total of 8 million adults, dislocated workers and disadvantaged youth in 2010 nationwide. That is a staggering 234% increase over 2008. Of those 8 million served, 4.3 million were placed in jobs during a period when unemployment rates averaged 9.5 percent.

Minnesota's program year (PY) 2010 federal allocation for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs totaled \$44,783,463. With this funding, an estimated 24,287 Minnesotans will receive on-the-job training, college education, and other vocational services to help them re-enter the workforce. Over 100,000 additional customers will receive help finding a job and career planning. These customers are receiving services through Minnesota's 49 active WorkForce Centers.

If this proposal prevails, dislocated workers will lose their support for their re-training efforts to secure a better career; low-income recipients will lose personal job search assistance; and youth will lose their chance to locate their first job. Furthermore, the WorkForce Centers will only have 25% of the funds available in the previous year to provide access to computers, workshops, and other employment related services the general public.

We know these are difficult economic times and the budget deficit needs to be addressed. The best deficit reduction plan is to get people back to work and paying taxes - that is what WIA programs do.

Additional Information:

- [WIA Success Stories](#) (MWCA web site)
- [WIA Success Stories](#) (Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development web site)
- [Minnesota's WorkForce Centers and Local Provider Contact Information](#) (click on the map)

The Minnesota Workforce Council Association believes workforce development is the key economic development issue in our economy. MWCA represents the cooperative efforts of 16 area workforce councils across the state. Each area council provides leadership and direction for local workforce development programs, which are tailored to meet the specific needs of their communities. It is the mission of the Minnesota Workforce Council Association to provide Minnesota with a skilled and competitive workforce through engaged and proactive local elected officials, workforce boards, and One-Stop partners.

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