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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 1986

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The Honorable William Brock
Secretary
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to urge you to give priority to Illinois in the allocation of discretionary Title III Dislocated Workers grants to help maintain existing dislocated workers assistance programs.

Due to reductions in the FY 1986 appropriation, it appears that funds provided to Illinois for assistance to dislocated workers under Section 301(b) of the Job Training Partnership Act will be reduced from approximately \$10.7 million to approximately \$4.8 million. This reduction would have a devastating impact on job training and support services provided to dislocated workers in Illinois.

The President's FY 1986 budget included \$100 million for assistance to dislocated workers under the Job Training Partnership Act. Although this represented a reduction of \$122 million from the amount appropriated in FY 1985, it was anticipated in the budget request that large carryover balances would provide sufficient funds to "meet all expected needs".

Because of its success in implementing dislocated workers programs, however, Illinois will have spent almost all of the Title III formula allotment by the end of the 1985 program year. As a result, sufficient carryover funds will not be available to maintain current service levels. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs has estimated that there will be a carryover balance of \$750,000 in Section 301(b) funds as of June 30, 1986. This represents only 7% of the formula allocation to Illinois in the current program year. Clearly, existing programs can not be maintained in Illinois with a 65% reduction in the FY 1986 formula allotment unless discretionary funds are used to protect these services.

The Dislocated Workers program provides vital services to Illinois workers who have lost their jobs due to plant closings and major layoffs. This program is critically important to the economic development of our state. Illinois officials have indicated that in program year 1984, almost 118,000 jobs were lost in Illinois due to plant closings and major layoffs. The 19 Regional Dislocated Workers Centers supported by the Title III Dislocated Workers program were able to serve approximately 15,000 of these workers. The proposed reduction in Illinois' FY 1986 allotment would drastically reduce the number of workers served by these centers. These reductions could force many of these center to close, eliminating Illinois' ability to respond to major plant closings or layoffs.

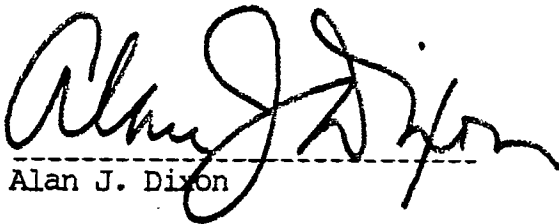
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In order to protect these vital programs, a "hold harmless" provision was included in the House Appropriations Committee Report to the FY 1986 Continuing Resolution for the dislocated workers program. The House Appropriations Committee's report directs the Secretary of Labor to allocate discretionary funds appropriated in FY 1986 to states which do not have sufficient carryover funds to maintain the funding level provided in program year 1985. A similar provision was included in the Senate Appropriations Committee report for the FY 1986 appropriation to the Department of Labor.

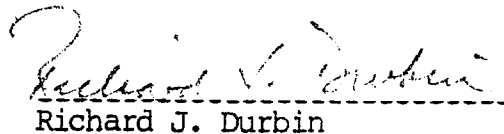
The reductions proposed in Illinois' FY 1986 allotment under Section 301(b) of the Dislocated Workers program would have the effect of penalizing states such as Illinois which have been hit hard by the restructuring of our economy, and have successfully implemented training programs to provide job opportunities to dislocated workers. We strongly urge you to use the discretionary 301(a) funds to maintain these vital job retraining services in Illinois.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan J. Dixon



Richard J. Durbin

Robert H. Michel

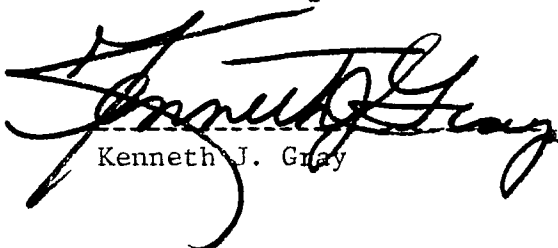
Terry Bruce

Lynn Martin

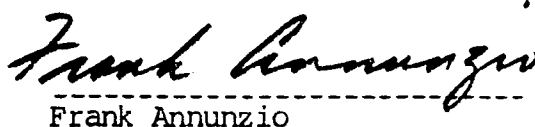
William O. Lipinski

Charles A. Hayes

Lane Evans



Kenneth J. Gray



Frank Annunzio