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## **Workforce Development Organizations Warn Cuts to Job Training Programs Will Slow Job Growth**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Workforce development organizations, which have served 8 million people and placed more than half of them in new jobs in the past year, are [warning Congress about the negative effects on job growth as a result of budget cuts to job training programs](#). Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), a national organization that works with workforce development organizations across the country and conducts job training in their home community of Washington, DC, is issuing the following statement on today's Senate vote:

**“Job training programs are helping unemployed Americans get back to work in jobs that let them support their families,”** said Joan Kuriansky, WOW Executive Director. **“Cutting off the very programs that have helped people find new jobs is a short-sighted budget maneuver that will ultimately put less money in the hands of struggling families and in the economy as a whole.”**

**“The continuing resolution passed today is one more step toward the wholesale cuts contained in H.R. 1, which would [zero out funds for the 3,000 one-stop career centers across the country](#),”** Kuriansky said. **“Job training programs help women and other unemployed workers develop marketable skills, and help employers find the skilled workers they need. Employer associations like the National Association of Manufacturers, and unemployed workers have been crying out for these programs, and shutting the career center doors will hurt job creation, hiring and our economic recovery.”**

Older workers who lose their jobs are being forced into early retirement unless they can develop new skills and credentials for a new field. Job training programs are also vital to women reentering the workforce after divorce, death of a spouse or taking care of their children or elderly parents.

Cuts to job training programs as passed by Congress today include:

- \$125 million to the Career Pathways Innovation Fund, which provides training for high-demand occupations in fields like health care
- \$225 million to the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), which helps unemployed and retired elders prepare for and be hired in jobs in today's economy

**“Older Americans are having a particularly difficult time finding work, forcing some of them to take extreme measures to make ends meet,”** said Shirley Stuart, State Director of Experience Works South Dakota. **“Through our older workers training program, which is funded through SCSEP, we were able to find a job for an unemployed 55-year-old who had been selling blood plasma to cover their bills.”**