



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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July 11, 2022

Congress: Don't Let Training Funds Expire for Workers Whose Jobs are Shipped Overseas

*More than 12,600 Letters Sent Urging Congress to Protect Workers
in Manufacturing Competitiveness Bill*

A job training program for workers who lose jobs to foreign competition, imports, and bad trade agreements is about to terminate for lack of Congressional reauthorization. The Coalition on Human Needs reached out to advocates nationwide, and they responded with more than 12,600 letters sent to Congress urging that the program be continued by including it in the international competitiveness legislation now being negotiated in Congress.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) job training program renewal is included in the House COMPETES bill, but as the House and Senate continue to negotiate final provisions from COMPETES and the Senate U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), TAA is reported to be in danger of being left out.

“We cannot ensure U.S. competitiveness in the global economy without effective training for workers left behind,” said Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs, an independent alliance of national groups representing human service providers, people of faith, policy experts, labor, civil rights, and other advocates.

The Department of Labor announced that the last \$201 million in funding for TAA will be distributed through September 30; without further Congressional action, the program will end.

The thousands of letters sent called for the continuation of worker training when jobs are lost to any country in the world, with a new child care allowance to enable workers to enroll in training programs. The letters also called for continuation of the Health Coverage Tax Credit, to prevent people from losing health insurance.

“At a time when jobs are available without enough qualified applicants to fill them, continued access to job training will keep workers in the labor force and strengthen our economic competitiveness. Many thousands of constituents took the trouble to tell Congress how important this is to them. Congress should listen,” said Weinstein.