

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

The explanatory statement accompanying this division is approved and indicates Congressional intent. Unless otherwise noted, the language set forth in House Report 116-62 carries the same weight as language included in this explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this explanatory statement. While some language is repeated for emphasis, it is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

In providing the operating plan required by section 516 of this Act, the departments and agencies funded in this Act are directed to include all programs, projects, and activities, including those in House Report 116-62 and this explanatory statement accompanying this Act. All such programs, projects, and activities are subject to the provisions of this Act.

In cases where House Report 116-62 or this explanatory statement directs the submission of a report, that report is to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Where this explanatory statement refers to the Committees or the Committees on Appropriations, unless otherwise noted, this reference is to the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

TITLE I
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (ETA)
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Grants to States.—The agreement is consistent with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) authorization regarding the amount of WIOA State grant funding that may be reserved by Governors.

Adult Employment and Training.—WIOA State grant funding continues to serve critical functions, including to assist States that continue to experience high unemployment.

Youth Training.— The Department is directed to evaluate incorporating resilience training and trauma-informed practices into WIOA youth job training programs and shall consult with organizations with nationally recognized expertise in such practices. The Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees within six months of enactment of this Act describing the findings of the evaluation and an assessment of how WIOA youth job training programs could adopt such practices and measure outcomes.

Dislocated Worker National Reserve

Career Pathways for Youth Grants.— The bill provides \$10,000,000 to utilize the demonstration grant authority under the dislocated worker national reserve for grants to support national out-of-school time organizations that serve youth and teens and place an emphasis on age-appropriate workforce readiness programming to expand job training and workforce pathways for youth and disconnected youth, including soft skill development, career exploration, job readiness and certification, summer jobs, year-round job opportunities, and apprenticeships.

Funding will also support partnerships between workforce investment boards and youth serving organizations.

Strengthening Community College Training Grants.—The agreement provides \$40,000,000 for the Strengthening Community College Training Grant program. The Department is directed to follow all requirements and directives in House Report 116-62 related to this program, except that the Secretary shall make individual grants to community colleges of at least \$1,000,000, unless grants are awarded in consortia to community colleges and other eligible institutions as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act and do not exceed \$5,000,000 per grant.

Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities.—The agreement provides \$30,000,000 to continue this program in the Appalachian and Delta regions. The Department is directed to ensure broad geographic distribution of funds within these regions and awards should not exceed \$1,500,000 per award.

Transition to WIOA.—The agreement requests additional information regarding use of the Secretary's 10 percent reservation of funds for technical assistance to transition to WIOA under the dislocated worker assistance national reserve in the fiscal year 2021 Congressional Justification.

Apprenticeship Grant Program

The agreement provides \$175,000,000 to support registered apprenticeships and includes new bill language referencing WIOA, ensuring that funds are only used to support registered apprenticeships, and that makes funds available starting July 1, 2020 to encourage better management and oversight.

The agreement notes serious concerns regarding the Department's misuse of registered apprenticeship funds and the Department's communication of this misuse to the Committees, including testimony before the Committees.

The agreement notes that funding under this program should be prioritized to support State, regional, and local apprenticeship efforts, as well as efforts by intermediaries to expand registered apprenticeships into new industries and for underserved or underrepresented populations.

State expansion grants have been used to positive effect in States with high unemployment. The agreement directs the Secretary to prioritize funding for national, regional, and local intermediaries. The agreement directs the Secretary to continue funding for business and labor industry partner intermediaries and ensure that labor intermediaries are given opportunities to apply for competitive grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and other funding opportunities.

The Department is encouraged to support funding industry or sector partnerships as a means of expanding registered apprenticeships in in-demand industries. The Department should collaborate with the Department of Defense to develop registered apprenticeships that address the critical national defense need for new submarine construction. The Department is encouraged to support programs in the health care, maritime, construction, and oil and gas industries. The agreement notes concerns about shortages nationwide of drinking water and wastewater management professionals and encourages the Department to address the shortage of water system management professionals.

The agreement directs the Department to provide quarterly briefings on all spending activities under this program to the Committees, and to comply with directives and statements in House Report 116-62.

JOB CORPS

Job Corps.—In addition to the directives included in House Report 116-62, the Department is directed to provide 30 days notification to the Committees in advance of any action to close or deactivate a Job Corps Center (Center), as well as

in advance of any action to establish a pilot program or demonstration project at a Center. The Department is further directed to minimize the amount of time a Center is inactive prior to commencement of a pilot program or demonstration project and to ensure training opportunities and slots do not decline as a result of such pilot or demonstration. Not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act, the Department shall provide the Committees a report on the performance of all pilot programs and demonstration projects, including a detailed description of the performance metrics used to evaluate the projects, and an analysis of the performance of pilots and projects relative to other Centers. The Department is expected to continue to comply with the directives under the heading Job Corps in Senate Report 115-289.

Construction and Renovation.—The Department is encouraged to take into consideration critical municipal infrastructure deficiencies when identifying construction and renovation projects.

~~STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPERATIONS~~

Unemployment Insurance Compensation

State Unemployment System Needs.—The agreement notes that State unemployment insurance (UI) systems are critical for ensuring claimants receive timely processing of benefits. The Department is encouraged to provide above-base State UI funds through supplemental funding opportunities to States to the extent that unobligated funds, not otherwise needed for workload, are available at the end of the fiscal year. Such funds should support improving operations and modernizing State UI systems to help ensure that workers and their families receive fast and high-quality assistance in their time of need.

UI Integrity Center of Excellence.—The agreement provides \$9,000,000 for the continued support of the UI Integrity Center of Excellence (UIICE), including \$6,000,000 for the benefit of States to the entity operating the UIICE.

Employment Service

National Activities.—The agreement provides \$2,500,000 to reduce the processing backlog for the work opportunity tax credit program.

Foreign Labor Certification

The agreement includes an increase of \$6,500,000 for continued implementation of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-218). The agreement urges the Department to provide careful oversight and transparency related to the timely processing of visa applications for temporary employment certifications. The agreement directs the Department to provide an update on the upgrades to the foreign labor certification technical system, including the launch of the Foreign Labor Application Gateway, in the fiscal year 2021 Congressional Justification.

One-Stop Career Centers and Labor Market Information

Occupational Licensing.—The Department is directed to provide a briefing within 90 days of enactment of this Act to the Committees on the outcomes and status of the occupational licensing initiative, including the impact on military spouses, dislocated workers, and transitioning service members and a review of the grants awarded in fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (EBSA)

Special Olympics.—Within the total for Technical Assistance and Dissemination, the agreement includes \$20,083,000, an increase of \$2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2019 funding level, to support activities authorized by the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act, including Project UNIFY.

REHABILITATION SERVICES

Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants.—The agreement directs the Secretary to submit a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act to the Committees evaluating any changes in trends in employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities served by State vocational rehabilitation programs before and after the implementation of the WIOA. The agreement directs the Secretary to ensure appropriate State level implementation of the Rehabilitation Act, which may include the Department providing technical assistance as necessary.

SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

American Printing House for the Blind.—The agreement includes \$2,000,000, an increase of \$1,000,000, to continue and expand the Center for Assistive Technology Training regional partnership established in fiscal year 2019.

National Technical Institute for the Deaf.—The agreement includes \$5,500,000 to continue the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's (NTID) existing regional partnership in fiscal year 2020, intended to expand NTID's geographical reach and improve access to postsecondary STEM education and employment for students who are deaf or hard of hearing in underserved areas.

Gallaudet University.—The agreement includes \$3,000,000, an increase of \$1,000,000, to continue the regional partnership established in fiscal year 2019 focused on early language acquisition for children from birth through age three who are deaf or hard of hearing.