

# Federal training cuts have long-term cost

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As a local business owner and chair of the Livingston County Workforce Development Council, I am writing to oppose recent action taken by the U.S. House of Representatives to eliminate all funding for local work-force programs.

The House recently passed HR 1, the fiscal 2011 continuing resolution to fund the U.S. government through Sept. 30, 2011. Included in the more than \$60 billion in cuts to the current fiscal year's budget are \$3.8 billion in cuts to the work-force and job-training programs administered by the U.S. Department of Labor.

These cuts eliminate all funding for Workforce Investment Act programs beginning July 1, and if enacted, will likely force the closure of the Michigan Works! Livingston Service Center and most of the more than 100 Michigan Works! Service Centers across the state.

We recognize that Congress faces difficult choices in today's fiscal climate, but eliminating federal investments in work-force programs will have an immediate impact on the ability of more than 14 million unemployed to transition to new jobs, the ability of U.S. companies to find the skilled workers they need, and on our ability to compete in the global economy.

Data shows that expenditures on work-force programs return more money to the treasury than is spent on them due to increased tax revenues and lower expenditures for welfare payments, food assistance and unemployment insurance.

A recent report by the Michigan Works! Association showed that even in the midst of the worst recession since the 1930s, Michigan Works! programs returned more than \$1.30 for every dollar spent. Eliminating these programs now will actually increase our budget

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deficits, not reduce them.

While these proposed cuts have passed the House, they still must be approved by the Senate and the president before they become law. I urge our citizens to contact Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin and Rep. Mike Rogers to let them know how important these services are to our community.

Rick Currie

Brighton

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