

STEVE KAGEN, M.D.

WISCONSIN
8TH DISTRICT

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Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

www.kagen.house.gov

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1232 LONGWORTH
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

TELE: (202) 225-5665
FAX: (202) 225-5729

WISCONSIN OFFICES:

700 E. WALNUT STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54301

TELE: (920) 437-1954
FAX: (920) 437-1978

PAPER VALLEY RADISSON
333 W. COLLEGE AVENUE
APPLETON, WI 54911

TELE: (920) 380-0061
FAX: (920) 380-0051

TOLL FREE IN WISCONSIN
800-773-8579

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh,

As your Subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Labor, I strongly urge you to reject the Administration's proposed cuts and continue to fund Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs and Wagner-Peyser Programs at the necessary level.

As you are aware, the Administration has again sought to dramatically reduce the funding for these programs. Wagner-Peyser assistance would be zeroed out in the Administration's FY2009 request and Workforce Investment Act funding would be reduced by \$474 million.

During these difficult economic times, it is regrettable and counterproductive to cut these critical programs that assist people in finding work. In my district and throughout the state of Wisconsin, the Job Centers funded by WIA and Wagner-Peyser funding have played a vital role in helping my constituents receive the training and assistance they need to transition in our economy.

The recent announced closure of a paper mill Niagara and the shutting down of one of the machines at another mill in Kimberly will put more than four hundred people out of work. The job centers in Marinette can play a crucial role in helping these workers find

new jobs that allow them to continue to support their families. Job Centers also help our returning Veterans transition into the civilian labor force successfully.

I am proud that I was able to vote for legislation last year that rejected the Administration's proposed funding cuts. I would encourage the Subcommittee to reject this proposal again this year and maintain, if not increase, the funding for Wagner-Peyser and WIA funding in the FY 2009 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Labor.

Sincerely,

Steve Kagen, M.D.

Steven L. Kagen, MD
Member of Congress