



## COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING



July 29, 2013

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

On behalf of [more than 900 education, health and workforce training organizations](#), we strongly urge you to convene the subcommittee markup of the fiscal year (FY) 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Labor-HHS). The Labor-HHS bill represents the largest of the nondefense discretionary 302(b) allocations, and its programs and services impact every American. Taxpayers deserve to see how the Committee plans to spend their hard-earned dollars on programs that prepare workers for jobs, educate our youth, and safeguard the health and safety of all Americans.

The programs and services administered through this important appropriations bill serve a broad range of constituencies and needs, but they all share a common, fundamental goal of strengthening this nation by improving Americans' lives. Despite the breadth and depth of the Labor-HHS bill's impact, Congress notoriously fails to openly debate it under regular order. FY 2006 was the last Labor-HHS bill to be enacted as standalone legislation, but not until the end of calendar year 2005. In fact, it has been more than 15 years since a Labor-HHS bill was enacted through regular order prior to the start of the fiscal year.

A public Labor-HHS markup is particularly important this year under the House's 302(b) allocation, which calls for an 18.6 percent cut to the FY 2013, post-sequestration funding level. In actual dollar terms, FY 2014 would be the smallest Labor-HHS bill since 2001; 15 percent below FY 2001 when adjusted for inflation. Cuts of this magnitude—nearly four times greater than sequestration—require open debate.

With so much at stake, elected officials must be willing to be held accountable for their decisions. The American taxpayer deserves no less. We urge the Committee to convene the Labor-HHS markup.

Sincerely,

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