

July 15, 2008

Cosponsor the Investing in our Human Resources Act

Dear Colleague:

Critical needs in America are going unmet. A sign of a well-functioning society is the opportunity for upward economic mobility, particularly for those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder. Americans need new opportunities in a transitioning economy: opportunities like job training for workers learning new skills, and educational assistance for foster children.

The Investing in our Human Resources Act (IHRA) would invest in America's human resources to encourage personal economic growth for individuals of modest means. To do so, IHRA would devote up to \$40 billion for the provision of education and training for workers transitioning from old-economy jobs into 21st century employment, and expanded access to education to individuals currently or formerly in foster care. Both of these populations experience heightened difficulties in accessing education and job training, compared to the general population.

Importantly, the IHRA would not increase the federal deficit, as it would utilize a funding stream that would become available should Congress decide to regulate internet gambling. Revenues generated by internet wagers that are legal and regulated would be deposited into a newly-created Transitional Assistance Trust Fund. Money from this trust fund would be made available to states and territories, based on population, for the purposes of funding state programs that:

- Provide for expanded education and job training opportunities for individuals in or formerly in foster care. According to the Children's Defense Fund, the Child Welfare League of America, and the Center for Law and Social Policy, youth in foster care struggle academically, with lower graduation rates, reading ability, and overall academic performance. Casey Family Programs say that only 37 percent of youth formerly in foster care attend college, compared to about 60 percent of all high school graduates.
- Provide, primarily through community colleges, expanded access to post-secondary education and job training opportunities for individuals transitioning out of declining economic sectors into ones with better long-term opportunities.

IHRA would also establish a Safe Internet Gambling Practices Program to promote responsible internet gambling behavior and awareness of unsafe practices.

Current law aims to prohibit Americans from gambling over the internet, but attempting to govern what adults choose to do online is proving very difficult. Recent congressional hearings demonstrated the ineffectiveness of the prohibition, and estimates suggest that regulating online gambling would better protect U.S. consumers, and could

bring over \$40 billion into the federal treasury over the ten years. Accordingly, there is growing interest in regulating, rather than prohibiting, this fast-growing industry. IHRA would ensure that this revenue would be invested where there is a critical need: in America's human resources. For more information or to sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Jayme White of my staff at 5-3106.

Sincerely,

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Projected State Allocations of Funding from IHRA

State	Population	Percentage Of Total Population	4 Billion (1 year)	40 Billion (10 Years)
California	36,553,215	11.95%	478,000,000	4,780,000,000
Texas	23,904,380	7.81%	312,400,000	3,124,000,000
New York	19,297,729	6.31%	252,400,000	2,524,000,000
Florida	18,251,243	5.97%	238,800,000	2,388,000,000
Illinois	12,852,548	4.20%	168,000,000	1,680,000,000
Pennsylvania	12,432,792	4.06%	162,400,000	1,624,000,000
Ohio	11,466,917	3.75%	150,000,000	1,500,000,000
Michigan	10,071,822	3.29%	131,600,000	1,316,000,000
Georgia	9,544,750	3.12%	124,800,000	1,248,000,000
North Carolina	9,061,032	3.08%	123,200,000	1,232,000,000
New Jersey	8,685,920	2.84%	113,600,000	1,136,000,000
Virginia	7,712,091	2.52%	100,800,000	1,008,000,000
Washington	6,468,424	2.11%	84,400,000	844,000,000
Massachusetts	6,449,755	2.11%	84,400,000	844,000,000
Indiana	6,345,289	2.07%	82,800,000	828,000,000
Arizona	6,338,755	2.07%	82,800,000	828,000,000
Tennessee	6,156,719	2.01%	80,400,000	804,000,000
Missouri	5,878,415	1.92%	76,800,000	768,000,000
Maryland	5,618,344	1.84%	73,600,000	736,000,000
Wisconsin	5,601,640	1.83%	73,200,000	732,000,000
Minnesota	5,197,621	1.70%	68,000,000	680,000,000
Colorado	4,861,515	1.59%	63,600,000	636,000,000
Alabama	4,627,851	1.51%	60,400,000	604,000,000
South Carolina	4,407,709	1.44%	57,600,000	576,000,000
Louisiana	4,293,204	1.40%	56,000,000	560,000,000
Kentucky	4,241,474	1.39%	55,600,000	556,000,000
Puerto Rico	3,941,459	1.29%	51,600,000	516,000,000
Oregon	3,747,455	1.23%	49,200,000	492,000,000
Oklahoma	3,617,316	1.18%	47,200,000	472,000,000
Connecticut	3,502,309	1.15%	46,000,000	460,000,000
Iowa	2,988,046	0.98%	39,200,000	392,000,000
Mississippi	2,918,785	0.95%	38,000,000	380,000,000
Arkansas	2,834,797	0.93%	37,200,000	372,000,000
Kansas	2,775,997	0.91%	36,400,000	364,000,000
Utah	2,645,330	0.87%	34,800,000	348,000,000
Nevada	2,565,382	0.84%	33,600,000	336,000,000
New Mexico	1,969,915	0.64%	25,600,000	256,000,000
West Virginia	1,812,035	0.59%	23,600,000	236,000,000
Nebraska	1,774,571	0.58%	23,200,000	232,000,000
Idaho	1,499,402	0.49%	19,600,000	196,000,000
Maine	1,317,207	0.43%	17,200,000	172,000,000
New Hampshire	1,315,828	0.43%	17,200,000	172,000,000
Hawaii	1,283,388	0.42%	16,800,000	168,000,000
Rhode Island	1,057,832	0.35%	14,000,000	140,000,000

Montana	957,861	0.31%	12,400,000	124,000,000
Delaware	864,764	0.28%	11,200,000	112,000,000
South Dakota	796,214	0.26%	10,400,000	104,000,000
Alaska	683,478	0.22%	8,800,000	88,000,000
North Dakota	639,715	0.21%	8,400,000	84,000,000
Vermont	621,254	0.20%	8,000,000	80,000,000
District of Columbia	588,292	0.19%	7,600,000	76,000,000
Wyoming	522,830	0.17%	6,800,000	68,000,000
Guam	173,456	0.06%	2,400,000	24,000,000
US Virgin Islands	108,448	0.04%	1,600,000	16,000,000
Northern Mariana Islands	84,546	0.03%	1,200,000	12,000,000
America Samoa	57,291	0.02%	800,000	8,000,000