

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 20, 2019

The Honorable Eugene Scalia  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Scalia,

We write concerning the Department of Labor's (Department) acknowledgement that more than one million dollars in funding for the Apprenticeship Grants program was inappropriately obligated. As you know, this funding is provided in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

First funded in fiscal year 2016, the Apprenticeship Grants program began with an investment of \$90 million; with broad bipartisan support, this investment expanded to \$160 million in fiscal year 2019. As a result of this funding, registered apprenticeships in the United States have made significant gains with more than 238,000 new apprentices added in fiscal year 2018 alone.<sup>[1]</sup> This appropriation has also supported investments in state registered apprenticeship efforts, improved apprenticeship opportunities in the United States military, promoted gender and racial diversity in apprenticeship programs, and increased awareness of apprenticeship opportunities the United States as a viable path to employment.

Any misuse of funds, especially when contrary to the purpose of the appropriation, raises serious concerns regarding the Department's internal financial controls and accountability on the use of appropriated funds. While we did not receive supporting documentation concerning this information, a news media outlet was able to obtain "...an internal agency discussion document detailing results of the financial review."<sup>[2]</sup> We are troubled to learn that the press was able to obtain such documentation before any information was provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

As the Committees of jurisdiction with oversight over discretionary appropriations for the Department of Labor, the provision of timely information regarding the use of funds is essential to our ability to conduct oversight. When we request information on any misuse of funds, we appreciate a prompt and thorough response. We expect that the Department will take such an investigation seriously and we encourage you to work cooperatively with the Committees.

Sincerely,

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<sup>[1]</sup> [https://www.doleta.gov/oa/data\\_statistics.cfm](https://www.doleta.gov/oa/data_statistics.cfm).

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/trump-apprenticeship-plan-under-fire-for-alleged-misuse-of-funds>.



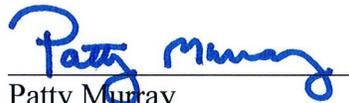
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



Patty Murray  
United States Senator