

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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WORKER RETRAINING PROGRAM FUNDED BY HOUSE-PASSED BILL, RAHALL SAYS

Washington, D.C. -- West Virginia will receive valuable worker retraining funds under a bill passed by the House of Representatives today, according to U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV).

"This funding is of critical importance to those thousands of men and women who have lost their jobs due to increased foreign imports," Rahall told his colleagues. "The state's share of the \$20 million in the bill for job retraining under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (T.A.A.) program will enable the deserving men and women of West Virginia receive the job retraining they so desperately need."

"It is of great concern to me, in view of the fact that the unemployment rate in West Virginia remains one of the highest in the nation, that those who are eligible for these retraining activities will be left out in the cold because of the current lack of funding for this vital program," Rahall observed. "I am heartened that my colleagues in the House recognize the difficult strain we are under in West Virginia and have acted accordingly to help us."

The Supplemental Appropriations bill also provides funding for a number of programs important to West Virginia. "This measure appropriates funds for the homeless; health and education programs, housing, emergency programs, drug abuse program, and AIDS research, as well as funds for programs aimed at helping our veterans," Rahall noted. "Every bit of funding coming into the state for programs of this nature are crucial to our everyday living in West Virginia."

"The conference agreement between the House and Senate is not perfect, and there are some programs I would have liked to have seen included, as well as others that I would have preferred dropped," Rahall commented. But, overall, I feel that this bill will help us get through this fiscal year and provide much-needed assistance in our state."