

FY 2005 Bush Labor Budget No New Jobs, And Less Job Training

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- **The Bush budget proposes cuts for Department of Labor Programs.** President Bush's FY 2005 Department of Labor Budget doesn't keep pace with inflation and cuts programs in real terms. These cuts come amidst serious economic problems for millions of Americans. Two million individuals over the coming months are expected to exhaust their Federal and State unemployment benefits, due to objections from Republican leaders to extend these benefits; And the Bush economic program that has relied on tax cuts has failed to restore millions of lost jobs since he took office – resulting in the worst jobs record since the Great Depression.
- **The Bush Budget cuts job training programs.** Hidden within this budget are cuts of \$286 million for job training and employment services. These cuts come on top of \$1.5 billion in cuts to job training and related services that President Bush has proposed since he took office.
- **The Bush budget block-grants adult and dislocated worker programs.** The Bush budget block-grants adult and dislocated worker programs under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), jeopardizing critical training resources just as workers look to gain new skills to compete in an increasingly tight job market. Dislocated workers will be hurt the most because there would no longer be dedicated funding guaranteed to help them find new jobs.
- **The Bush Budget job training cuts total more than Community College Initiative.** Despite the Administration's attempt to highlight its community college job training proposal, the Bush budget cuts job training programs by \$286 million. These cuts total \$36 million more than the \$250 million proposed for the community college program. In addition, the budget would cut \$316 million in vocational training funding in the Department of Education. All of these cuts are on top of \$1.4 billion in spending reductions President Bush has proposed for job training and vocational education since he took office.
- **The Bush budget eliminates the Employment Service.** The Bush budget eliminates the Employment Service – the very program that connects unemployed workers with jobs. This termination comes at a time when millions of workers continue to struggle to find jobs.
- **The Bush budget proposes risky PRA demonstration scheme.** The Bush budget includes a \$50 million demonstration program for the establishment of Personal Responsibility Accounts (PRAs). These PRAs are designed as a substitute for unemployment benefits – ending cash assistance with a job training voucher of minimal value. When proposed last year, this initiative would have capped the amount of job training assistance that individuals could receive.
- **The Bush Budget cuts funding for International Labor by \$70 million.** The Bush budget slashes the International Labor program by \$70 million. Among its many missions, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs monitors and assists countries in enforcing basic workers' rights and core labor standards, including the prohibition against child labor.

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