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Motion by Mr. __________
(on Conferees’ Staff Notes on H.R. 1617)

Mr. __________ moves that the staff recommendations be modified as follows:

Note 102 (relating to funding for dislocated workers)

Add to the staff recommendation the following:

"The House recedes with an amendment as follows."

"Subsection ___. HOLD HARMLESS FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS.

From the total amount available to each State in any program year for employment and training and the flex account, each State shall expend an amount to provide employment and training services to dislocated workers that is not less than the amount that was allocated to such State for dislocated workers under title III of the Job Training Partnership Act in fiscal year 1995."

Note 337 (relating to career grants)

"The Senate recedes with an amendment as follows."

"Paragraph ___. USE OF CAREER GRANTS

(i) DISLOCATED WORKERS. -- Except as provided in clause (ii), training provided to dislocated workers under this Act shall be provided through the use of career grants."

Note 337(a) (relating to exceptions to use of career grants)

Senate recedes.

Note 337(b) (relating to transition for career grants)

Senate recedes.
AMENDMENT ON DISLOCATED WORKERS
Talking Points

- The proposed conference agreement does not maintain our national commitment to dislocated workers.
  - These experienced workers have made significant contributions to our economy and now they are asked to bear the burdens of economic change.
  - Their jobs disappear in factory closings, base closings, and other large-scale downsizings. They are permanently laid off through no fault of their own.

- Until now, these workers were not abandoned to bear alone the costs of economic distress. Rather, they could count on government help to learn new skills and land new jobs.

- The proposed conference agreement could result in laid-off workers facing two closed doors -- first the factory door and then the door to government assistance.
  - Given the competing demands, States could choose to use their block grant funds to help welfare recipients with their job search and training, train other special populations, enhance One-Stop services, or upgrade the skills of employed workers to lure new industry to the State -- ignoring the needs of dislocated workers.

- Based on CBO data, it is anticipated that more than two million workers will be dislocated during 1997. We must provide assurances that adequate resources are available for the types of assistance that have proven successful in helping these workers.

- The amendment I am offering would help dislocated workers in two ways:
  - First, it would guarantee a minimum level of resources for these workers. Each State would be required to spend funds for dislocated workers from the total amount available to that State from the adult training and flex accounts that is not less than what they spent for such workers in fiscal year 1995. This "hold-harmless" provision will ensure that sufficient resources are available to help these workers make a successful transition to new jobs and careers. [Note 102]
  - Second, the amendment requires that training be provided to dislocated workers only through career grants. [Note 337]
Career grants are essential because here we are dealing with experienced workers. Many have had long and successful careers. It just happens that -- through no fault of their own -- in our dynamic economy, they have been displaced from their jobs.

Career grants will give these experienced workers the opportunity to choose the training that will best meet their reemployment needs and to make the most of it.

By equipping these workers with purchasing power and information on the track records of training institutions, we will create market incentives to improve the quality of training.

A vote against the amendment undercuts our commitment to American workers who played by the rules and permanently lost their jobs. A vote against this amendment robs these American workers of important opportunities to make an effective transition to a new job or career.

NOTE: Amendment is attached.