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STATE OF NEW YORK



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Commissioner Peter M. Rivera
New York State Department of Labor
Building 12
W.A. Harriman Campus
Albany, New York 12240

Dear Commissioner Rivera,

I write to bring to your attention to an opportunity to expand employment and workforce training opportunities in the Buffalo area. After speaking with residents and advocacy groups, I kept hearing the same refrain that New York State's workforce training programs are an excellent idea, but people don't know how to get involved. Residents and groups believe that if the Department of Labor were willing to go directly into neighborhoods and hold satellite office hours, local participation in Buffalo would show a marked increase.

I believe the Department of Labor should immediately expand their outreach and engagement efforts and work directly in the neighborhoods where workforce training programs would make the largest possible impact. The state has made a billion-dollar commitment to help create jobs in Buffalo and Western New York; now we need to ensure local residents have access to the necessary training programs to take advantage of those new jobs.

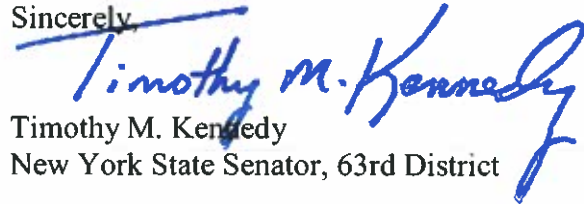
Recently, Governor Cuomo announced over \$800,000 in workforce training funding in Western New York through the Regional Economic Development Council. Following this, my office fielded a large number of calls from constituents who were eager to take advantage of these programs. Many people who are in need of this training may not have the means to seek out the locations where they can receive it. By having a DOL representative available and DOL programs accessible in their neighborhood, they will be able to speak with someone who is well-versed in various workforce training programs without having to travel long distances.

I know there are groups throughout the area, in neighborhoods in Buffalo, Cheektowaga and Lackawanna, that would be willing to provide space for a DOL representative to set up a satellite office or to periodically hold outreach events from. I am happy to help you and your staff by facilitating any meetings with local groups that may be needed, and stand ready to offer any other assistance you may require. I believe this simple solution would empower numerous

residents struggling with unemployment to receive the training they need and put them on the path to a steady long-term career.

I look forward to working with you and your department on this important matter. If I may be of assistance or if you have any questions, please contact me at 716.826.2683.

Sincerely,


Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senator, 63rd District