

Labor and Industry to Receive Federal Funds for Training Program (05/26/03)

\$14.5 million grant will pay for training bills incurred last year;
Demonstrates progress toward reopening TAA program

PHILADELPHIA --- Congressman Robert A. Brady announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor approved a National Emergency Grant (NEG) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the amount of \$14.5 million. This grant applies to money owed to training providers for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) training provided in federal fiscal year 2002. Additional funds are required in order for the program to resume taking new enrollees.

The Congressman said the grant represents continuing efforts to close a \$30 million deficit that evolved during the last two federal fiscal years.

"The award represents the combined efforts of U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the members of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation that helped to negotiate this grant funding. It is important that we all continue to work together as we seek to resolve the remaining \$16 million deficit," said Congressman Brady

"We needed to pay for training in the current federal fiscal year and seek additional federal funds to reopen the TAA training program in Pennsylvania," he said. "Once we receive those commitments, I am confident the program can be reopened for those individuals who have been anxiously awaiting training since March 24."

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry operates as a conduit for TAA funds, administering the program on behalf of the USDOL. Under an agreement with the USDOL, the Department reviews and approves applications for training based on the provisions of TAA.

Prior to 2003, approximately \$51 million had been obligated for training in excess of available federal funds. Prior to the announcement of the \$14.5 million grant, there was a total program deficit of approximately \$30 million, broken down as follows: FFY 2002 deficit of \$14.5; and FFY 2003 deficit of \$16.2. Before the program can be reopened to new enrollees, Federal funding must be obtained to make the program whole up to March 24, 2003 and to provide for sufficient funds for the remainder of the fiscal year (through September 30). The total amount required is \$ 29.3 million in addition to the funds

approved today.

Approximately 1,300 Pennsylvanians were approved for TAA training since the start of FFY '03 which began Oct. 1, 2002. A total of approximately 5,300 Pennsylvanians are currently enrolled in TAA-funded training courses that began before March 24, 2003.