



October 17, 2013

Last night, the House and Senate approved a bill to reopen the government.

The Senate passed **the measure** by a vote of 81-18 and the House passed it by a margin of 285-144. A little after midnight, President Obama signed it into law.

The measure contains a variety of provisions including:

- Extending the Continuing Resolution (CR) through January 15, 2014, applied retroactively to October 1st.
- Increasing the national debt limit until February 7th
- Creating another budget super committee to create a long term funding agreement by mid December
- Providing retroactive pay for federal employees

The Department of Labor **issued guidance** that formally indicated that the new allotments that will be forthcoming may be used to cover the costs of allowable WIA adult and dislocated worker activities that were provided on or after October 1, 2013.

Next steps

While the reopening of the government is extremely important and positive, the fight is not over. The issues that brought us to this point remain and will need to be addressed before the agreement runs out in early 2014.

It is important to note that 2104 is an election year for many in Congress, which may factor into the future debates and agreements. It also is important to realize that while the CR runs through January 15th, sequestration is scheduled to go back into effect on January 14th. This means that there will be strong pressure for Congress to come to an agreement before more cuts are implement to non defense and defense discretionary programs.

NAWDP realizes that the last few weeks have been extremely difficult for the workforce development field and that the shutdown has personally impacted many NAWDP members.

In the next few days, we will be coming back to you with specific initiatives and activities that will help raise the profile of workforce development with our federal officials in order to help ensure that this does not occur again in early 2014.

Thank you for all of your efforts to serve our nation's employers and job seekers. Workforce Development Professionals are at the heart of our economic recovery and you should take pride in all of your efforts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Bridget@nawdp.org or 202/589-1790.

Bridget Brown, CWDP
Executive Director