

Murphy Visits New Britain's One-Stop Career Center Where Funding for Services is at Risk

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Contact: Kristen Bossi, 202-225-4476

NEW BRITAIN - Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) visited New Britain's One-Stop Career Center as Republicans in Washington want to eliminate funding for the program that keeps these centers going in this recession.

"One of the most worthwhile investments we can be making right now is in centers like this one here in New Britain that are putting people back to work. The training, and career networking, and tools available here simply can't be replaced, and so we've got to protect their funding in Washington," said Murphy.

With double digit unemployment in Connecticut's major cities, Murphy voted against a bill in Washington that eliminates funding for the Workforce Investment Act, the law that provides a portion of the resources that sustain CTWorks Career Centers in Hartford, New Britain, Enfield, and Manchester. Last year, these centers, which are operated in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Labor and Capital Workforce Partners, and provided nearly 35,000 adults and youth with job placements, training and other services. Without these federal funds, One-Stop Career Centers like CTWorks will either have to curtail their work or could possibly face closure.

"We need to put Connecticut back to work and keep the state's businesses economically competitive," says Thomas Phillips, President and CEO of Capital Workforce Partners, the Workforce Investment Board for North Central Connecticut. "Congressman Murphy understands our challenges and the value of our system to address them."

Last fiscal year, federal funds represented 48% of Capital Workforce Partners' budget, which includes some one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, known as the stimulus, funds that were all fully allocated to meet the growing needs of the job seeker and workforce development arena.

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