

DATE, 2020

The Honorable (insert Representative or Senator name)

Re:
New Choices/New Options Budget Line Item
Labor & Industry \$750,000

Dear (Senator/Representative insert name):

Thank you for your ongoing support of New Choices/New Options, a free and highly effective career program that helps job-seeking Pennsylvanians on their path to self-sufficiency and success. I am writing to ask you to help ensure that the New Choices/New Options line item of \$750,000 in the Labor & Industry budget maintains level funding in the 2020/21 fiscal year.

I live/work in your district (explain connection to elected official). I volunteer as board member / CAC member / other (describe connection to program). I have seen first-hand the positive impact New Choices has on women's lives.

Over the past 26 years, New Choices/New Options has built a reputation as a life-changing program by empowering more than 66,000 Pennsylvanians to succeed in finding employment that pays a family-sustaining wage. New Choices/New Options supports individuals faced with challenging career transitions, such as single parents, refugees, survivors of abuse, and others.

In 10 class sessions, participants build their confidence and self-esteem, solidify their direction in the job market, and learn foundational career skills they can apply to any job, such as job search and interview techniques, computer skills, professional communication, and more. **This transformative experience results in an 82% placement rate into jobs or continued education.**

New Choices/New Options clients find living-wage jobs that give them the power to break the cycle of generational poverty and find stability for themselves and their families. In 2018/2019, this program delivered successful outcomes and savings for the state. Graduates' average starting wage in new employment was \$15.02/hr. with many positions including benefits. Considering added tax revenue, Medicaid savings and more, New Choices/New Options provided the state approximately \$1.5 million in savings.

I ask that you encourage your Leadership to support a final budget that includes the \$750,000 investment into New Choices/New Options. I have attached a draft letter that you can customize and send to your caucus leadership to express your support.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional details. I appreciate your consideration or continued support of this critical program funding.

Sincerely,

(Insert Name)