

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR:
Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012
10:00 a.m.
Focus: Hope
Machinist Training Center
1200 Oakman Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48238

Contact:
Kae Halonen
1.248.827.4547
kaehalonen@gmail.com

CORRECTION: The location for this Press Conference has been changed to the Focus: Hope Machinist Training Center, 1200 Oakman Blvd., Detroit, MI 48238. We apologize for any inconvenience.

2011 Budget Control Act Could Harm Workers, Businesses, Economy Community Leaders, Clergy, and Educators Speak Out Against Potential Job Training Cuts

DETROIT – Business, community and educational leaders from Metro Detroit are calling on the state’s congressional delegation to protect job training programs from budget cuts that could devastate the local workforce.

They will also be encouraging Metro Detroiters to vote Nov. 6 while urging the candidates of their choice to support job training centers that could help fill more than 100,000 existing jobs in Michigan.

At a news conference on Thursday, Oct. 25 at Focus: HOPE, they will highlight the critical need to protect Michigan’s community colleges and nonprofit job training centers, all of which risk severe cuts if the federal budget crisis results in sequestration (automatic, across-the-board cuts) on Jan. 2.

As part of a nationwide effort led by the Save Our Skills Coalition, local groups represented at the Oct. 25 press conference include Southeast Michigan Jobs with Justice, Focus: HOPE, Macomb Community College, Southwest Solutions and Detroit Rainbow PUSH. Andy Levin, board member of the National Skills Coalition, will moderate the discussion.

“Fifty percent of Michigan’s jobs are in middle-skill occupations, but only 45 percent of our state’s workers have the appropriate training for these jobs,” said Glenn Shelton, community co-chair of Southeast Michigan Jobs with Justice. “We can’t get that critical 5 percent back to work if we can’t train them for the jobs that are available.”

Cuts imposed by the Budget Controls Act of 2011 on federally funded jobs training programs will deeply impact metro Detroit workers, families and businesses, he said. “Our economy needs more investment in these programs, not less. Michigan’s economic future depends on the skills of our workers.”

WHO: William Jones, CEO, Focus:HOPE; Dr. Jim Jacobs, president, Macomb Community College; Rev. D. Alexander Bullock, president Detroit Rainbow PUSH; Linda West, Director, Center of Working Families, Southwest Solutions; Andy Levin, principal, Levin Energy Partners, LLC

WHAT: Press conference on impact of potential federal sequestration budget cuts on local job training programs.

WHEN: 10 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 25

WHERE: Focus: HOPE Machinist Training Institute, 1200 Oakman Blvd., Detroit, MI 48238