



The Assisting America's Dislocated Miners Act

Our coal communities have been devastated by a mix of environmental regulations and market conditions. Many of the dislocated miners in our coal towns have worked in the mines their whole lives and have limited training for jobs in other fields. These miners need help in learning new trades, preparing to join the workforce, and finding employment in new fields.

Decreased mining and production have reduced the coal severance tax revenues that local governments rely on, causing a decrease in essential services for our communities. High schools, community colleges, and retraining centers have all been impacted by the downturn in the mining industry – at a time when these programs are needed the most.

Rep. Jenkins' Assisting America's Dislocated Miners Act would establish a Dislocated Miners Assistance Program at the U.S. Labor Department to:

- Identify miners who have been dislocated;
- Assess their skills, training and education to enable them to find and hold new jobs;
- Identify job training programs that would provide such training and education;
- Provide grants to eligible job training providers to recruit and train such miners and help them find new employment.

The bill would also authorize \$20 million a year for five years to fund the Dislocated Miners Assistance Program. These grants would be available for eligible institutions and organizations across the United States that can capably provide retraining and education assistance for dislocated coal miners.

This legislation will build on recent grants focusing on retraining unemployed coal miners. In October, Rep. Jenkins joined officials in Charleston to announce a grant of more than \$7 million from the U.S. Labor Department to the United Mine Workers of America's Career Centers to retrain workers at its Beckley center. Rep. Jenkins voted to secure \$19 million for fiscal year 2016 at the Labor Department to fund grants to provide job training and services for workers dislocated from coal jobs.