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STATE SENATOR  
**LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS**

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March 6, 2026

The Honorable Jay Costa  
Senate Box 203043  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3043

The Honorable Vincent Hughes  
Senate Box 203007  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3007

Dear Leader Costa and Chairman Hughes,

I respectfully request your support to maintain the **\$1,000,000 line item for the New Choices/New Options program in the FY 2026–2027 Department of Labor and Industry budget**, consistent with last year's funding level. Governor Shapiro has included \$1,000,000 for the program in the Administration's proposed budget.

Employers across Pennsylvania continue to report difficulty finding qualified workers to fill open positions. **PA Women Work** helps address this challenge by providing career development, job-readiness training, and supportive services for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed, particularly women, minorities, justice-involved individuals, and mature workers. The organization works closely with employers to ensure its training aligns with current workforce needs.

Demand for the New Choices/New Options program continues to grow. Over the past four years, PA Women Work has exceeded its service goals by as much as 30%. Last year, 1,953 Pennsylvanians participated in 248 classes and workshops, with clients representing 46 counties across the Commonwealth.

For more than 33 years, New Choices/New Options has delivered strong outcomes, maintaining a 3-to-1 return on state investment and helping over 73,000 Pennsylvanians move toward stable employment. Last year, 80% of participants secured new or improved employment, education, or training opportunities.

Maintaining this \$1,000,000 investment will support a proven program that advances the Commonwealth's workforce development priorities while helping employers connect with job-ready workers. Thank you for your continued leadership in supporting workforce development initiatives across Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lindsey M. Williams".

Senator Lindsey M. Williams  
State Senator, 38<sup>th</sup> District