[Your Name]

[Company (if applicable)]

[Address Line 1

[Address Line 2]

[City, State Zip]

[Email]

[Senator/Congress(wo)man Name]

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

[City, State Zip]

**Re: Support the Women’s Bureau and WANTO Grant Program**

Dear [Senator/Representative Congress(wo)man Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am writing as a supporter of Moore Community House (MCH) in Biloxi and its Women in Construction (WinC) program—a nationally recognized leader in training low-income women for high-wage, high-demand careers in the skilled craft trades.

I am deeply concerned by the Department of Labor’s recent termination of WinC’s Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grant.

Despite a strong performance record – including recognition as a best-practice model by the Women’s Bureau during the first Trump administration – and despite continued demand for the program’s services, the Department of Labor terminated this $714,518 grant prior to the end of its contractually obligated, 2-year period of performance, stating that the grant “no longer aligns with the administration’s priorities.” This action not only disrupts highly effective and essential training for Mississippians seeking high-wage, high-demand careers, it also undermines two key priorities the Trump administration has repeatedly emphasized: (1) expanding the skilled workforce needed for infrastructure, manufacturing, and construction, and (2) standing up for American workers and their families. Without this funding, a proven talent pipeline to local employers such as Ingalls Shipbuilding, Bollinger Shipbuilding, and Rolls Royce Naval Marine, is abruptly and sharply narrowed.

Mississippi already faces a notable skills gap, particularly in middle-skill jobs that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. Currently, 69% of jobs in Mississippi are considered middle-skill, yet only 37% of the state's workforce possesses the necessary qualifications for these roles. Programs like WinC bridge that gap by providing targeted training that leads to sustainable employment. Losing this funding weakens the region’s workforce stability and limits the economic mobility of those the program serves.

Federal investments in programs like WinC not only empower individuals but also strengthen Mississippi’s economy by addressing workforce shortages in critical industries.

Equally troubling is the broader message this decision sends. The termination of this and other Women’s Bureau grants raises concern that the Bureau itself is being dismantled. Eliminating or weakening this office would be a direct setback for workers, employers, and the economy nationwide.

I respectfully urge you to:

1. **Advocate for the reinstatement of WinC’s funding** so the program can continue its vital role in workforce development.
2. **Support initiatives** that provide training and resources to low-income individuals, aligning with Mississippi’s economic and employment goals.
3. **Protect WANTO** – a congressionally authorized and already-appropriated statutory grant program – **and Other Women’s Bureau Grants** that create pathways to economic security nationwide

1. **Preserve the Women’s Bureau itself,** along with the technical assistance it provides to employers.
2. **Ensure that federal funding decisions** are guided by data-driven assessments of need and impact rather than shifting political ideologies.

Thank you for your continued support of programs that enhance employment opportunities and economic stability for Mississippians and for standing with workers and their families.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[City, State]

[Optional - MCH Affiliation]