

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Governor W. Averell Harriman
State Office Building Campus
Albany, New York 12240



JAMES J. MCGOWAN
Commissioner of Labor

May 27, 1998

Mr. Jerry Barber
Director of State Audits
Office of the State Comptroller
Division of Management Audit
A. E. Smith Office Building
Albany, New York 12236

Dear Mr. Barber:

This is in response to your letter of March 17, 1998, requesting the Department of Labor's response to issues raised in your final study report (97-D-7) which analyzed and compared certain aspects of selected Service Delivery Areas in the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) programs.

In November of 1997, the Department of Labor (Department) submitted a comprehensive response to the draft study report which is attached to the final report as Appendix B. This response disputed certain issues raised in the report and also pointed out other factors that were not considered by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) in the analysis of the JTPA program data. The Department stands by the comments expressed in the original response.

There is an error, however, in OSC's response to the Department's comments on page 7 of the final report. The final report indicates that the U. S. Department of Labor (USDOL) intends to evaluate JTPA programs in the future using cost measurements. This is not true. The USDOL has recently recommended to the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Employment and Training Administration not to include cost comparisons in its nationwide JTPA "report card" initiative.

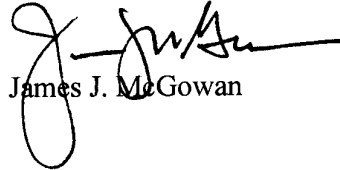
The Department of Labor continues to work towards a more efficient, effective integrated workforce development system that will better prepare individuals facing barriers to employment with the skills they need to participate in the labor force. The JTPA programs are part of this initiative.



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If you have any questions, please contact Karen Stackrow, Director of Internal Audit at 457-9016.

Sincerely,



James J. McGowan

cc: Governor George E. Pataki
Comptroller H. Carl McCall
Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth McCaughey-Ross
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