

Dear Representative (Name):

As a constituent, I need your support and help.

Please sign onto the attached letter, in support of restoring federal funding for the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program within the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.

Throughout our state and the nation, I have seen first-hand how important this program is to our competitiveness in the global economy. Baldrige drives growth in business and manufacturing resulting in more jobs. Baldrige helps improve health care quality and affordability. The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology recommended the Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services build on the Baldrige program to help improve cost and quality of healthcare in the US.

Additionally, the Baldrige Program is working with other federal agencies to include the White House and CIO Tony Scott to develop the new Baldrige Cybersecurity Excellence Framework. This framework will build on the world-class NIST Cybersecurity Framework to develop a program that will identify and share best practices to strengthen America's cybersecurity infrastructure. This initiative also has the support of cybersecurity industry leaders from across the country.

The Baldrige program is also driving improvements in efficiency and student performance in our schools and higher education. Demonstrated benefits include improved graduation rates, college attendance rates, AP course participation and better performance including higher standardized test scores. With so much return on this small amount of funding, the Baldrige Program is clearly the best investment our nation can make for a competitive future.

In order to ensure the continuation of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, the program needs FY 2017 federal funding restored in the Department of Commerce's budget. It is a small funding request with enormous impact across the nation, and in every sector of the economy. It will also provide funding for the much needed Baldrige Cybersecurity Excellence Framework and Community of Excellence 2026 initiative.

I am requesting your support and that you sign on to this letter by contacting JP Mason on the staff of Congressman Sam Graves at Jonathan.Mason@mail.house.gov or at (202) 225-7041 .

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number