



July 14, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,

Over the last two years our nation has faced immense hardship in response to a global pandemic and we are thankful to you for the leadership you have provided in the face of these challenges. As our nation continues to recover, there is a growing skills mismatch between workers and the jobs that are available. Previous legislative packages were woefully inadequate in addressing the need for workforce funding and this issue will become more acute as jobs are created, workers retire, technology shifts, and infrastructure projects spurred by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law begin. As Congress continues to negotiate a reconciliation package, the undersigned organizations urge you to incorporate dedicated funding for programs inclusive of those serving youth and adults authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), including Wagner-Peyser and Adult Education; and the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to address these economic challenges and shifts.

Even before the pandemic, businesses were sounding the alarm that there was an insufficient pipeline of workers to fill existing and future jobs. Now, with the national unemployment rate at 3.6%, lower than what many economists consider “full employment,” employers are facing a crisis with more than 11 million job openings. But the unemployment rate does not tell the whole story, as women, people of color, and individuals without a high school diploma continue to face an uneven recovery with significantly higher rates of unemployment compared to the national average. Many of these individuals were displaced from existing jobs during the pandemic in sectors that were hardest hit and the slowest to recover. These workers require training and support services to transition to new careers and access the jobs for which employers are currently hiring. All of this comes at a time when existing workforce investments are already insufficient. After decades of disinvestment in our workforce system, with cuts of over 40% since 2000 when inflation is factored, many workers, students, and businesses are simply left behind.

Implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and clean energy proposals will exacerbate our nation’s skills mismatch further. While the BIL importantly provides billions of dollars to maintain, repair, and build new infrastructure assets and is estimated to create as many as 2 million new jobs, the legislation did not provide sufficient direct funding to ensure that those jobs could be filled. As Congress

looks to include clean energy provisions in the upcoming reconciliation bill, it is likely that these proposals will also drive significant job creation. Congress should use the legislation as a vehicle to provide funding to support training, education, and supportive services.

Congress has the opportunity to use the reconciliation package to help existing and future displaced workers access good jobs, address inequities, support the workforce needs of businesses and ensure that our nation's infrastructure and clean energy goals are met, but only if significant investments in workforce are included. We urge Congress to include funding for workforce in the upcoming reconciliation package.

Advance CTE	Geaux Jobs - LWDA 20
Alabama Cooperative Extension System/Alabama A&M and Auburn University	Georgia Congress of Parents and Teachers Association
Allegany County Employment & Training	Georgia Power
Andromeda Community Inc	Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Association for Career and Technical Education	Henry Street Settlement
Association of Community College Trustees	Highland County Community Action
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs	Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation
Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development	International Development Institute
Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board	Jefferson-Lewis WDB
Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships	Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF)
C & D Assembly, Incorporated	JVS / RESCARE
Capital Region Workforce Development Board	Kansas Works
Career Path Services	Kings Against Violence Initiative
Career Team	KMW & Associates
Careersourcecapitalregion.com	KRA Corporation
Cayuga Cortland Workforce Development Board	Lane Workforce Partnership
Center for Employment Opportunities	Lehman College CUNY
Central Six Development Council, Inc.	LifeCrafters, LLC
Central States SER	Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)	Lowcountry Council of Governments
CobbWorks, Inc.	Lower Savannah Council of Governments
Cochise Private Industry Council	Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works!
Columbia-Greene Workforce Investment Office	Mass Workforce Association
Community Services Employment Training (CSET)	McHenry County Workforce Network
Continuing Education Association of New York	Michigan Works! Association
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW)	Midlands Workforce Development Board
Cortland County Planning Department	Missouri Work Assistance
Covenant Collaborative Consulting and Training LLC	Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Covenant House Missouri	National Able Network
Dutchess County Workforce Development Board	National Association of Regional Councils
East Cascades Works	National Association of Workforce Boards
East Side House Settlement	National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP)
EmployIndy	National Council for Workforce Education
Every Strength Counts	National Skills Coalition
Fifth Avenue Committee	National Youth Employment Coalition
FIRE a Partner of the Capital Region Workforce Development	Northern Indiana Workforce Board, Inc.
First Planning District Workforce Development Board	Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
FLWIB	NYATEP
	OIC of America
	Orleans County Job Development Agency

Oswego County Workforce New York  
Partnership for Southern Equity  
Pee Dee Workforce Development Board  
Pikes Peak Workforce Center  
Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources  
Ready4Real  
Red Hook Initiative  
Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association  
Rogue Workforce Partnership  
Ross Innovative Employment Solutions  
San Diego Workforce Partnership  
Saratoga-Warren-Washington Workforce Development  
Board  
Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
Skills2Compete Colorado  
Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and  
Employment  
State University of New York Bronx Educational  
Opportunity Center  
Staten Island Community Partnership  
STL Youth Jobs  
Syracuse Northeast Community Center  
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.  
The Center for Work Ethic Development  
The Corps Network  
The New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation  
The Place  
The Right Way Foundation  
The Westchester County Association, Inc.  
Tiny Farms  
Triad of Goodwill of Central Nc  
United Way of Central Iowa  
United Way of Greater Union County  
Urban League of St. Louis  
Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc  
Virginia Association of Workforce Directors  
Workforce Development Board 83  
Weld County  
West Michigan Works!  
Western MD Consortium  
Westside American Job Center  
WIB Inc dba Chautauqua Works  
Workforce Connections - Local Workforce Development  
Board  
Workforce Development Board of Middlesex County  
Inc.  
Workforce Development Council of Seattle King County  
Workforce Network, Inc  
WorkSource Macon-Bibb/Middle Georgia Regional  
Commission  
Worksystems

World Education Services (WES)  
WRTP | BIG STEP  
Yonkers Local Workforce Development Board  
Youth Action Programs and Homes, Inc.  
Youth Jobs Connect