



December 4, 2024

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chair
House Education and the Workforce Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Education and the Workforce Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Foxx and Sanders and Ranking Members Scott and Cassidy,

America Forward and our undersigned partners write in strong support of the bipartisan, bicameral A Stronger Workforce for America Act. We lead the America Forward Coalition of 100+ social innovation organizations advocating for more effective, innovative, and equitable federal policies. The America Forward Coalition includes numerous organizations that deliver or help facilitate programs with a track record of providing economic mobility in high-need fields. We are pleased that this legislation institutes long-needed, foundational improvements to make our nation's workforce system work better for many of the participants and programs our Coalition serves.

We appreciate that the bill incorporates many of our recommendations around performance improvement, data and learning, accessibility, and coordination, including provisions that will:

- Make essential investments in data infrastructure as a starting point for improvement, including support for stronger systemwide coordination and accessibility for providers;
- Drive performance improvement by making foundational changes regarding WIOA formula funding, including new requirements to invest in skills development and incentives to invest in supportive services; requiring states to establish minimum standards for eligible training providers tied to key labor market outcomes; and providing for performance-based incentives;
- Emphasize critical evidence-based strategies in state planning, WIOA formula funding, and the authorization of the Strengthening Community College Training Grants, Reentry Employment Opportunities, and Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grants programs;
- Establish opportunities for states to invest in innovative, evidence-based approaches, such as the Critical Industry Skills Fund, the Industry or Sector Partnership and Career Pathways Development Fund, and the State Flexibility Pilot Authority;
- Institute reforms that promise to unlock the potential of pay-for-performance contracting to drive stronger, more equitable outcomes, such as raising the counterproductive caps on such contracts under current law; and
- Cut red tape for providers and participants, including allowing participation in training programs while eligibility determinations are ongoing, streamlining the eligible training provider list application process, and raising the transitional jobs cap.



Thank you again for your work on this important bipartisan legislation, which goes a long way to strengthen our nation's workforce programs. We urge all Members of Congress to support this important legislation and ensure its passage this year.

Sincerely,

America Forward
Apprenticeships for America
Braven
Cara Collective
CoGenerate
Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative (CEEMI)
Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC)
exalt youth
FutureFit AI
GreenLight Fund
i.c.stars
LIFT
Maycomb Capital
One Million Degrees
Opportunity@Work
Per Scholas
Project QUEST
Propel America
REDF
TNTF
Third Sector
Vehicles for Change
Year Up United
YouthBuild Global

CC: Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell