



June 10, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing as part of the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW), a coalition dedicated to growing our economy by strengthening the investment in America's workforce. Our organizations are committed to meeting the needs of workers, learners, and employers across the nation, helping people of all ages pursue education, develop in-demand skills, and secure family-sustaining employment. We write to urge you to reject harmful cuts to workforce development programs recently proposed as part of the president's recently proposed 2026 federal fiscal year (FY26) budget request.

The Trump Administration has indicated a goal of increasing domestic manufacturing and strengthening registered apprenticeships. Such efforts will require an increased investment in the public workforce system to be successful. However, the FY26 budget request from the Administration—proposing the consolidation of a number of current workforce development programs with funding reduced overall by \$1.64 billion, and proposing the complete elimination of Job Corps, the Senior Community Service Employment Program, and Adult Education under Title II of WIOA—runs counter to these goals and the broader needs of workers and learners across the nation.

We urge you to reject these cuts as part of the forthcoming FY26 appropriations process and work to strengthen investments in the public workforce system.

Businesses are already struggling to fill 7.2 million jobs, which hinders profitability, growth, and U.S. competitiveness. Jobseekers served by the public workforce system often have the most complex needs, including basic education deficits, poverty, disability, housing instability, a criminal record, long-term unemployment, or a combination of these challenges. We must make every effort to move individuals from dependence to employment. These programs see a strong return on investment generating \$66 billion in annual earnings among those who are employed.

We therefore urge you to strengthen investments in skills and workforce development under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and related programs as you consider funding for the federal fiscal year 2026. These investments include Wagner-Peyser and Adult Education, community service employment for older workers, apprenticeships, the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, Women in Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Occupations (WANTO), Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants Program, and workforce adjacent programs that prepare all individuals for sustainable and high-quality employment. We also support the Workforce Data Quality Initiative to improve data systems.

These investments yield substantial dividends for America, as evidenced by increased wages, tax revenue, and labor force participation; strengthened business profitability and U.S. competitiveness, and reduced reliance on public assistance.

Investing in the public workforce system is arguably among the federal government's most worthwhile and remunerative programs in terms of supporting families, businesses, and communities, while bolstering local economies by generating billions of dollars in wages.

The Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce thanks you for your leadership and commitment to a strong American workforce and we welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

Advance CTE

American Association of Community Colleges

Association for Career and Technical Education

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)

Corporation for a Skilled Workforce

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning

Goodwill Industries International

Jobs for the Future

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Midwest Urban Strategies

National Association of Development Organizations

National Association of Regional Councils

National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)

National Association of Workforce Development Professionals

National Council on Aging

National Education Association

National Skills Coalition

National Youth Employment Coalition

The Corps Network

United States Workforce Associations

YouthBuild Global

Cc: Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
Members of the House Appropriations Committee