CAMPAIGN TO INVEST IN AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

November 18, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations of the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW), we write to express our strong opposition to the deep and damaging cuts to federal workforce development programs proposed in the FY26 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill, which was approved by the House Appropriations Committee on September 9, 2025.

The bill, HR 5304, calls for a 63% reduction in Title I WIOA state funding, and calls for the complete elimination of several vital workforce development programs, including Adult Education, Youth, Re-entry Employment Opportunities, National Farmworker Jobs Program, and the Senior Community Service Employment Program. These cuts run counter to our nation's employment goals and the broader needs of workers and learners across the nation.

We urge Congress to advance a bipartisan commitment to rebuilding and strengthening our nation's public workforce development system. These programs are essential to helping employers find the skilled workers they need and enabling individuals—especially those facing the greatest barriers to employment—to become productive, taxpaying members of our economy.

The economic impact of these investments is profound. Federal workforce programs help people with limited education, disabilities, language and cultural barriers, histories of incarceration, caregiving responsibilities, and other challenges gain the skills and support needed to enter and advance in the labor market. These efforts generate an estimated $66 billion in wages annually[1], fueling families, communities, and the broader economy.

While we appreciate that the Senate bill represents an improvement over the House version, it still falls short of restoring all programs to the levels necessary to meet current demand. We urge Congress to make these programs whole. Anything less will undermine the Administration's stated goals of expanding registered apprenticeships and educating workers on emerging technologies.

We also want to express our appreciation for the inclusion of important guardrails in the Senate bill—provisions that prevent the delay or withholding of funds, prohibit the transfer of significant

[1] Estimate by FutureWork Systems, based on Program Year 2023 PIRL data.

functions between agencies without Congressional approval, and recognize the need for adequate staffing to administer programs effectively. These measures are critical to ensuring that workforce development efforts remain stable, transparent, and responsive to the needs of both workers and employers.

Congress must acknowledge the reality employers face: more than 7 million jobs remain unfilled across the country. Cutting workforce development funding at this critical moment will only widen the skills gap, stifle business growth, and diminish U.S. competitiveness.

Our organizations represent a broad coalition—national and regional nonprofits, community colleges, workforce boards, adult education programs, labor-management partnerships, youth-serving organizations, disability advocates, reentry programs, aging service providers, and more. Every day, we work to ensure that people of all backgrounds have access to the training, support, and opportunity they need to succeed in today's economy.

We stand united in calling on Congress to reject these harmful cuts and instead invest in a workforce development system that works—for employers, for workers, and for the future of our economy.

Sincerely,

AFT
American Association of Community Colleges
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Catholic Charities USA
Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)
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, Inc
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of Workforce Boards
National Association of Workforce Development Professionals
National Education Association
National Skills Coalition
National Youth Employment Coalition
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
United States Workforce Associations
YouthBuild Global