

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito  
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and Education  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and Education  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairwoman Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin,

As you begin your work on the Fiscal Year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you support robust funding for the Strengthening Community Colleges (SCC) Training Grant (SCCTG) program within the United States Department of Labor (DOL). SCCTG helps build community colleges' capacity to meet the skill development needs of employers and equitably support students in obtaining good jobs in in-demand industries.

Skilled trade workers are a core pillar of the U.S. economy. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, over the next ten years, there will be approximately 81,000 job openings per year for electricians and 44,000 job openings per year for plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. construction industry estimates it will need to attract 349,000 new workers in 2026 to meet demand.<sup>2</sup> These skilled trade shortages have significant economic impacts including lost revenue, supply chain delays and workplace safety violations.

The skilled trade workforce shortages illustrate that training and recruitment is more crucial now than ever. The SCC Training Grant program invests in our country's community college and technical college systems with DOL awarding over \$265 million in grants to 207 community colleges in 35 states in the last five funding cycles. These investments enhance much-needed training programs in high demand industry sectors including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, clean energy, and education. According to DOL, the funding helps to create more flexibility to allow colleges and partners to use accelerated and flexible credentialing and improves connections across the education systems, especially in outreach to K-12 and other systems to inform students and families of career pathways and related opportunities.<sup>3</sup>

For these reasons, we ask you to include robust funding for the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant Program. Thank you for consideration of this request.

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<sup>1</sup> [Occupational Outlook Handbook Summary: Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters](#), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Thursday, August 28, 2025

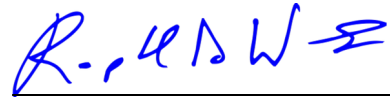
<sup>2</sup> [Construction Industry Must Attract 349,000 Workers in 2026 Despite Macroeconomic Headwinds](#), Associated Builders and Contractors, January 15, 2026

<sup>3</sup> [A glimpse at how SCCT grants are working](#), Matthew Dembicki, Community College Daily, February 6, 2024

Sincerely,



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator