



1250 Connecticut Ave., NW
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Washington DC, 20036
P 202.223.8991

June 10, 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,

Thank you for your leadership on workforce and education policy issues throughout the 117th Congress. **As you conference the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 (USICA) and the America COMPETES Act of 2022 (COMPETES), the undersigned businesses [and organizations] urge you to consider the inclusion of short-term Pell Grant eligibility and the College Transparency Act in the final package.**

Currently, eligibility for the Pell Grant program is limited to education and training programs that are at least 600 clock hours (or two-thirds of a typical academic year) and 15 weeks in length. This creates a financial barrier for students seeking non-degree credentials for high-demand jobs in sectors such as health care, manufacturing, and IT.

Our postsecondary education and training system continues to evolve to meet the needs of business and students. It is important that our federal financial aid system also adapt to the needs of today's students. Even prior to the pandemic, there was an increasing demand for greater flexibility in how students access education and skills training, including the ability to earn a high-quality credential in a shorter time frame. A greater emphasis on skills-based hiring among businesses reflects this shift away from a traditional postsecondary framework.

Our nation faces a skills mismatch between the existing workforce and job openings, including in sectors such as manufacturing, allied and direct health care, and infrastructure. The pandemic dramatically altered the economy and the workplace, including an accelerated adoption of new technologies. Employers need higher education to help workers rapidly re-skill for new jobs or upskill for current jobs to be successful in this new economy. Failure to address this need for additional skills training could leave millions of jobs unfilled, and impact productivity, innovation, and U.S. competitiveness.





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We also urge the inclusion of the College Transparency Act (S. 839, H.R. 2030) in the final competitiveness package, which creates a secure data system within the Department of Education to track student outcomes. The system would utilize existing federal and institutional data to calculate aggregate information on enrollment, completion, and post-college success. This will better inform institutions on ways to support student success and provide improved consumer information to students and families as they select postsecondary education and training programs. Wage and earnings data by major, for example, will help students identify in-demand fields leading to employment, helping to reduce the skills mismatch.

Expanding Pell Grant eligibility to shorter-term education and training programs will help create affordable and accessible pathways to postsecondary credentials for tens of thousands of students, while meeting demands of the business community. While enhanced data transparency will enable consumers to make more informed choices regarding such education and training programs. **We encourage you to include these provisions in the final competitiveness package using the House-passed Levin/Gonzalez/Krishnamoorthi/Steil amendment, the College Transparency Act, and the bipartisan JOBS Act (S. 864, H.R. 2037) as a benchmark.** Thank you for your consideration.

CC: Senator Patty Murray, Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Senator Richard Burr, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Representative Bobby Scott, Chair, House Committee on Education and Labor,
Representative Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and Labor,
Senator Tim Kaine,
Senator Rob Portman,
Representative Andy Levin,
Representative Anthony Gonzalez





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AccuRounds
AdventHealth
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
American Mold Builders Association
Ames Advanced Materials Corp
Anning-Johnson Company
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Atrium Health
Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Barry County chamber and Economic Development Alliance
Bay Area Council
Bitwise Industries
Boloco
Boston Centerless
Building Industry Association of Washington
Business Leaders for United Workforce Partnerships
C T Ward Powersports, LLC
Capital Region Chamber
Celey's Quality Services, LLC.
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce
Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce
Chris Caribbean Bistro
Cohen Strategy Group, LLC
Cook Group Incorporated
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Des Moines Partnership
Detroit Regional Chamber





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DeWys Manufacturing
Einstein Healthcare Network
Electronic Security Association
Embraer Aircraft Holding Inc
EmployIndy
Eufaula Barbour County Chamber of Commerce
Excello Tool Engineering and Manufacturing
Forging Industry Association
Georgia Power
Grand Rapids Chamber
Greater Akron Chamber
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville Inc.
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
Holland Home
Jostin Construction, Inc.
Journey Discovery Center
Kelly-Moore Paint Co. Inc.
Laystrom Manufacturing Co.
Longview TX Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
Lupson and Associates LLC
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Marketing Metal
Mass General Brigham
Metro Atlanta Chamber
MetroPower, Inc.
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Mills Machine Company
MotorDoc LLC





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Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Tooling and Machining Association
New Apprenticeship
North American Die Casting Association
North Bay Leadership Council
North Easton Machine Co., Inc.
North Orange County Chamber
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NSH USA Corporation
O'Neill Construction Group
Optimax Systems, Inc.
Perfection Spring & Stamping Corp.
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
ProHealth Care Health System
R&R Transportation Inc.
Rowlett Area Chamber & Visitors Center
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Small Business Association of Michigan
Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals
Sound Manufacturing, Inc.
Talent 2025
Texas Business Association
The Primo Plug, LLC
The Tennessee Latin American Chamber of Commerce
Trinity Health
UNITE-LA
Vail Valley Partnership
Wyoming Machine, Inc.
York County Economic Alliance

