

September 12, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C 20515 The Honorable Chuck Schumer Majority Leader U.S. Senate Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Minority Leader U.S. Senate Washington, D.C 20510

Dear Speaker, Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

Thank you for your leadership as Congress considers legislation to fund federal workforce programs for the 2025 fiscal year. Federal workforce programs are critical to support businesses seeking skilled workers to fill existing and future job vacancies. They also help workers access training to secure jobs in high-demand fields, advance in their careers, and adapt to technological advancements.

Employers are already facing workforce challenges. Impending waves of retirements from older workers, competition for workers across industries, and inadequate access to worker supports like childcare will exacerbate the existing demand for workers. In order to address the immediate and long-term needs of businesses and workers, Congress must support robust investments in skills.

This is sound policy that also enjoys broad public support. According to recent polling, 82% of voters support increasing government funding for skills training in America. As you work together to agree to spending levels for the 2025 fiscal year, the undersigned businesses and associations urge you to support robust investments in workforce programs. We urge you to pass legislation that:

- Funds federal workforce programs at robust funding levels. Workforce programs are crucial for providing industry-aligned training and education and must be funded without reducing current levels.
- **Provides dedicated funding for industry or sector partnerships.** Partnerships are key strategies for tailoring training to employers' needs and providing workers with the necessary training and supportive services to complete programs and be successful on the job.

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• Expands Pell Grants to high-quality short-term training programs. Expansion of Pell Grants to include industry-driven short-term workforce training programs will allow workers to develop skills quickly, meeting employers' needs to fill current job openings and supporting workers' economic mobility and growth.

U.S. employers are committed to working with Congress to foster economic growth and ensure that workers have access to quality jobs. Federal workforce programs play a key role in this effort. The undersigned businesses and business associations urge you to secure and enhance funding for critical workforce programs for the 2025 fiscal year without cutting existing funding levels.

Sincerely,

AccuRounds Aeronautical Repair Station Association AFC Tool Company American Mold Builders Association Arch Electric Inc. Arizona Technology Council Asbury Towers Health Care Center **Associated Equipment Distributors** Association of Marina Industries **ATCA Services Corporation** Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance **Bishop-Wisecarver Boston Centerless Building Potential** The Business Council of New York State **CD Moody Construction** Centennial Bolt Inc. Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce **Consumers Energy** Convergence Energy Country Maid Inc. **Dallas Regional Chamber** Dayton Area Chamber Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation **Detroit Regional Partnership Diego and Son Printing DMI** Companies DTE Energy East Bay Economic Development Alliance **Ecobalance Technologies LLC** 

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> ecoviabl LLC **Electronic Security Association** Enbridge Evansville Regional Economic Partnership Farovi Shipping Corp/Fla Stevedoring Inc Franklin Medical Center Fresno Business Council/San Joaquin Valley Manufacturers Association Front Street Shipyard Full Capacity Marketing Inc. **Georgia Power** Gilbane Building Company Grand Rapids Chamber Greater Louisville Inc Greater Munising Bay Partnership/Alger Co. Chamber **Greater Phoenix Chamber** Greater Topeka Partnership Hastings Fiber Glass Products, Inc. Howard Companies IEC Chesapeake Indiana Chamber of Commerce Interapt Jostin Construction Journey Discover Center Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp. U.S.A. Kingsport Chamber Kiscaden Consulting LLC Lancaster Chamber Lansing Board of Water and Light Las Vegas Mechanical Longview Chamber Los Angeles Area Chamber Louisiana Association of Business and Industry MACNY, The Manufacturers Association Magna International Inc. Manufacturers Association of Maine Marine Retailers Association MarineTec Management & Consulting Co. Marlin Steel Wire Products Marmen Energy Mass General Brigham Metrics Reporting Metro Atlanta Chamber MGM Resorts International Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association (MEECA)



> Michigan Energy Workforce Development Consortium Mid South Extrusion, Inc. - Monroe, LA Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance Mills Machining Company Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce National Roofing Contractors Association National Tooling and Machining Association - Cleveland, OH Nevada Contractors Association-AGC of LV NexGen Interactive, LLC Next Advance Inc. Next Generation in Trucking Association Noblesville Chamber of Commerce North Shore Chamber of Commerce Northeast Louisiana Physician Hospital Organization Northern Kentucky Chamber **O'Neill Construction Group Optimax Systems Inc. Orange County Business Council Origin Bank Orlando Economic Partnership Ouachita Public Works-Highway** Paramount Healthcare Consultants Photovoltaic Svs.LLC **Precision Machined Products Association** Precision Metalforming Association **Progressive Foam Technologies** Proterra Inc QED Systems Inc. **Richards Industrials** San Francisco Tech Council Schwerdtle Inc. Settlers Hospitality Small Business for America's Future Solar Energy Industry Association Southern Company Specialized Carriers & Rigging Foundation State Business Executives Terral RiverService, Inc. **Texas Association of Business** The Cianbro Companies Thurston County Chamber of Commerce TINA'S Green Energy Solutions, LLC Trinity Health



> Troy Area Chamber UNICON UNITE-LA Vail Valley Partnership Wegmans Food Markets Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce West Michigan Hispanic Chamber Wyoming Machine Inc Xcel Energy York County Economic Alliance