

September XX, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

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

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

Businesses across the U.S. are facing a shortage of skilled workers and as federal investments in infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing roll out, demand for workers is expected to continue to rise. To access in-demand jobs, advance in careers, and adapt to changing technologies, workers require training, upskilling, and reskilling opportunities throughout their careers, which also helps to boost employee retention. Strong federal investments in workforce development programs are critical to supporting the needs of both employers and workers. Without these investments, fewer workers will be able to access the jobs for which employers are hiring and our nation's economic growth may be limited.

August 2023 marked the one-year anniversary of implementation of CHIPS and the Inflation Reduction Act. Between these two major investments and the continued roll out of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, businesses in these and all industries need meaningful partnership and federal investments in our workforce system in order for workers to move into good jobs created by these pieces of legislation.

As you work together to agree to spending levels for the 2024 fiscal year, the undersigned businesses and associations urge you to support robust investments in workforce programs. Specifically, we urge you to pass legislation that:

- Funds federal workforce programs that are essential to helping workers access industry-aligned training and education without cutting existing funding levels.
- Provides dedicated funding for industry sector partnerships which are key strategies for tailoring training to employers needs and providing workers with the training and supportive services needed to successfully complete programs and access in-demand jobs.
- Includes language to expand Pell grants to high-quality short-term training programs that allow workers to develop skills quickly to support their economic

mobility and growth while meeting employers' need for workers with the skills required to fill current job openings.

U.S. employers are committed to working with Congress to help workers access good jobs and grow the economy. Federal workforce programs are a critical piece of that work and we urge you once again to fund and enhance skills training programs for the 2024 fiscal year without cuts.