2023 – 2024 FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA

How Congress Can Help Businesses Find Skilled Workers

For decades, too few businesses have had access to the skilled workers they need; and too few workers have had access to the training they need to land a good job. At the same time, the U.S. has been underfunding our public skills training system. This must change to remain competitive in a global economy.

ENSURE THAT COST ISN'T A BARRIER TO TRAINING

- Expand high-quality, industry-aligned shorter-term education and training programs at community and technical colleges (Pass the **Bipartisan JOBS Act**).
- Cover the costs of high-quality, industry-aligned skills training offered through community organizations, apprenticeship programs, and community colleges.
- Strengthen access to workforce supports like childcare, transportation, and housing.
- Ensure all workers have access to critical digital skills necessary in their current or future workplace (Pass the 21st Century Workforce Act).

SUPPORT INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Industry partnerships bring together businesses, community colleges, training providers, community organizations, unions, and worker organizations to develop industry-specific training pipelines.

- Support convening, expansion of, and sustainability for industry partnerships and resulting training programs (Introduce the SECTORS Act).
- Empower partnerships to meet businesses need to hire, upskill, and reskill workers through on-the-job learning opportunities including apprenticeships (modernize and reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance programs and reinstate Trade Adjustment Assistance for Community College and Career Training).

SUPPORT DATA COLLECTION TO MEASURE EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Good data holds our workforce policies accountable for better, more equitable outcomes. It also measures return on investment and supports program improvements.

Collect data that measures training program quality, job quality, and other program outcomes and break down program participant information by race, ethnicity, and gender to identify disparities and inefficiencies and close equity gaps while ensuring privacy (Pass the bipartisan College Transparency Act and modernize data collection and reporting provisions in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)



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