

August 30, 2021

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 Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McConnell,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and help an economy reeling from the public health crisis. As vaccinations increase, businesses reopen, and families start to resume pre-pandemic activities, our industries are committed to a robust and inclusive economic recovery.

With a generational shift in occupational roles economy-wide and accelerated level of digital transformation brought on by COVID-19, we have dueling problems—workers unable to find good-paying jobs that fit their skills and employers struggling to hire skilled workers for in-demand and emerging roles. Strong federal investment in the long-term success of America's workforce is critical to solving both challenges and address this skills mismatch.

For businesses across industries, this mismatch existed prior to the pandemic and was only exacerbated by the crisis:

- Surveys of manufacturing executives at the end of 2020 found 62.4% of respondents identified “inability to attract and retain talent” as their primary current business challenge, a concern that had topped the list for ten quarters prior to the pandemic.
- Analyses of previous infrastructure deals suggests that every \$100 billion invested creates 1 million new jobs, largely in construction, energy, transportation and logistics industries, the majority of which require some training after high school.
- Employment in healthcare occupations will grow 15 percent from 2019 to 2029, adding 2.4 million new jobs.
- Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 280,000 in March 2021 but was still down by 3.1 million jobs since February 2020. Likewise, retail added 23,000 jobs in March 2021, but employment was still 381,000 below its February 2020 level.

Congressional investments in workforce training and supports are essential to position workers for the new, skilled jobs that are going to be part of a different post-pandemic economy and to meet industry demand. And workers themselves agree – 82% want increased public investment

in skills training to help people find new jobs in response to the pandemic and 81% want to see increased investments in skills training in the long-term.

The undersigned businesses and industry associations urge you to support investments in workforce and skills as part of any economic recovery legislation. Specifically, we urge you to:

- Provide sufficient resources to support the demand for sector-based workforce training and reskilling programs that help bridge skills mismatch, including workers' digital skill needs, while promoting more equitable economic mobility,
- Expand workforce training capacity by providing tax incentives for training programs led by industry, educators, and non-profit organizations and embracing flexible short-term and on-line training in key digital and emerging, in-demand skills, and
- Drive informed training by growing real-time labor force data identifying economywide trends focused on emerging roles and the skills needed for in-demand jobs and high-demand sectors and measure the equitable impact of public investments.

We are committed to helping workers thrive in the changing economic landscape. Given the scale of change, government investment, assistance, and incentives are needed now more than ever to prepare the workforce for the economy of the future. We stand ready to work with you to build a strong and resilient economy.

AccuRounds  
ACT | The App Association  
Advanced Manufacturing Practices and Educational Development (AMPED)  
AEFIS  
Amazon Web Services  
American Mold Builders Association  
Anning - Johnson Company  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Atlanta Electrical Contractors Association  
Atlassian  
Atrium Health  
Austin Chamber of Commerce  
Autodesk  
Automation Alley  
AVR Connect  
Bay Area Council  
BC Compliance Group, LLC  
Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce  
Boston Centerless  
BrightHive Inc  
BSA | The Software Alliance  
Building Industry Association of Washington  
Business Leaders United

California Manufacturers & Technology Association  
CertNexus  
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce  
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.  
Code Name Collective, LLC  
Colorado Technology Association  
Cook Group Incorporated  
Credly  
Custom Plastics and More  
Dell  
Diego & Son Printing, Inc.  
DocuSign  
East Bay Economic Development Alliance  
Electronic Security Association  
Emma Coalition  
Extensis  
gener8tor  
Global Community Services  
Global Partner Solutions LLC  
Grand Rapids Chamber  
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Des Moines Partnership  
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

Greater Spokane Inc  
Greater Springfield Partnership (Springfield, Ohio)  
Guild Education  
Gwinnett Chamber  
Hillyard Inc.  
Hillyard Industries, Inc.  
Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)  
Chesapeake Chapter  
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)  
iQ4  
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association  
Jos. H. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc.  
Lawrence County (TN) Chamber of Commerce  
LightPoint Corporation  
LinkedIn  
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry  
Marine Industry Training & Education Council  
Massachusetts Business Roundtable  
Merify, LLC  
Metro Atlanta Chamber  
Microsoft Corporation  
Mills Machine Company  
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
National Skills Coalition  
National Tooling and Machining Association  
Newark Alliance  
North American Die Casting Association  
North Country Chamber of Commerce  
North Easton Machine Company Inc.  
O'Neill Construction Group  
Opportunity@Work  
Optimax Systems, Inc.  
Orange County Business Council  
Partnership Air Conditioning Heating  
Refrigeration  
Accreditation PAHRA  
Precision Machine Products Association

Precision Metalforming Association  
Prisma Health  
Qunnections Management Group, LLC  
R & R Transportation Inc.  
Rosendin  
Salesforce  
Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development  
Corporation  
SAP  
Seattle Southside Chamber  
Seimens USA  
Splunk  
Spotlight News  
Susque-View Home  
Talent 2025  
Technology Association of Oregon  
The 1896 Studios & Stages Inc.  
The Business Council of New York State, Inc  
The Manufacturing Institute  
The McGregor Metalworking Companies  
The New England Council  
The Spinney Group  
Three Rivers Development Corporation  
Top Notch Personnel, LLC  
Trinity Health  
Tucson Metro Chamber  
Turn Consulting, LLC  
Twilio  
UCC Environmental  
Udacity  
UNITE-LA  
VMware  
Waukesha Metal Products  
Webcor  
Woodland & Associates LLC  
Workday  
Wyoming Machine, Inc.  
York County Economic Alliance