



December 7, 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,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations who make up the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce, we want to thank you for your leadership during the 117th Congress. CIAW is a diverse coalition of national organizations that offer direct services, advocacy, research, and policy development to help people of all ages and backgrounds develop their skills, enter gainful employment, and enroll and succeed in postsecondary education.

As the 117th Congress comes to a close, we urge you to work together to craft an Omnibus bill for the duration of the 2023 fiscal year that includes significant investments in workforce and education to meet the needs of both workers and businesses.

Across the country we see the need for additional federal investment in skills training. Businesses in many industries are facing worker shortages. This is evidenced by the 10.7 million job openings that went unfilled in September even as the same month's data showed that 6.9 million workers would like a job. The historic enactments of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS Act are all likely to create even more demand for skilled workers as programs and funding roll out.

At the same time that we are seeing growing demand for skilled workers, we are also anticipating potential worker displacements as some areas of the economy show signs of weakening. Displaced workers will not all have immediately transferable skills for available jobs in other industries and will require access to education and training programs.

Unfortunately, it is usually our nation's most vulnerable populations - women, people of color, individuals with disabilities, individuals without high school diplomas, returning citizens, and immigrants - that experience the impact of economic shifts most significantly. Congress must ensure that programs inclusive of those serving youth and adults authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), including Wagner-Peyser and Adult Education; and the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act have the resources necessary to address existing and anticipated economic challenges and shifts.

The Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce once again thanks you for your leadership. We urge you to pass a strong omnibus funding bill and look forward to working with you in the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,

Advance CTE

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)

Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)

Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships (BLU)

Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)

Corporation for a Skilled Workforce

The Corps Network

The Forum for Youth Investment

Goodwill Industries International

Jobs for the Future (JFF)

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

National Association of Counties (NACo)

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)

National Association of Workforce Development (NAWDP)

National Council on Aging (NCOA)

National League of Cities

National Skills Coalition (NSC)

National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC)

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

United States Workforce Associations

World Education

YouthBuild USA