May 9th, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi            The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker                               Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives         U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515                 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We applaud Congress’ ongoing and bipartisan efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including legislation that has shored up our unemployment insurance system, expanded access to food and other needed assistance programs, and otherwise helped to blunt the immediate impact of the crisis on America’s families, workers, businesses, and economy.

Over the past six weeks, more than 33 million workers newly filed for unemployment benefits, and unemployment could easily reach 20 percent; cresting above even Great Depression era numbers. As we look to future packages that respond to our current crisis and its recovery, workers and businesses desperately need Congress to include vital investments in skills workers need to fill in-demand jobs today and to return to the workforce once our economy reopens.

Specifically, the undersigned organizations urge Congress to immediately invest at least $15 billion in our nation’s workforce development system, consistent with investments proposed in the Relaunching America’s Workforce Act, to ensure that we can respond quickly to current and projected demands for new workers in key industries, while helping those who have lost their jobs as a result of this crisis to transition to new family-supporting jobs.

Funding of this magnitude will be necessary to allow for services aimed at assisting the millions of Americans who will need help navigating the new unemployment and reemployment process in this time of crisis and businesses working to reskill and upskill workers. It will help workers identify careers in in-demand industries and occupations, seek the education and training needed for these careers, and access supports like childcare and transportation that can help them succeed in training and in new jobs. It will ensure businesses are able to inform training provided in in-demand occupations and empower states and local areas to support access and analysis of labor market information necessary for rapid response to regional needs.

Our nation’s workforce system – including workforce boards, labor unions, community and technical colleges, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders – stands ready to assist in getting U.S workers and businesses the skills they need for today’s challenges and tomorrow’s economic resurgence. Unfortunately, current investments in the U.S. workforce system fall far short of the needs of workers, businesses, and communities. The U.S. invests 25 percent less in workforce programming today than we did before the great recession. During that downturn, the workforce system experienced
a more than 200 percent increase in the number of Americans seeking reemployment and training services. At that time, Congress responded with a 40 percent increase in funding for employment and training assistance through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act – enabling the nation’s workforce system to serve more than 8 million people in 2009. Today’s crisis is even more acute and necessitates a more drastic investment to meet current and future need.

Again, we urge Congress to invest at least $15 billion in the nation’s workforce development system, including programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that are designed to serve adults, dislocated workers and opportunity youth, as well as Wagner-Peyser and Adult Education and Family Literacy; and the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act as part of the next stimulus package.

We thank you for your continued efforts to mitigate the harmful impacts of this pandemic on US workers and businesses, and we look forward to working with your offices to make sure our next legislative response includes necessary investments in our most important resource: our people.

Sincerely,

A.R.E. Manufacturing Inc.
ACCESS
AccuRounds
ACE MV
Adams 14 Adult Learning Center
Adult Learning Solutions, LLC
Adult Literacy League
Advance CTE
Advanced Superabrasives Inc.
Aiken County Adult Ed
Akron Leadership Foundation
Akron Public Schools
Akron Tool & Die
Akron Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach Program Inc
Akron Urban League
Alaska Adult Education Association
Alaska Literacy Program
American Association of Community Colleges
AnitaB.org
Anne Arundel County Literacy Council
Annie T. Jefferis Library
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
Asian Services in Action, Inc.
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Association of People Supporting Employment First
Association of Washington Business
Association of Woodworking & Furnishing Suppliers (AWFS)
ASW Global
Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency
Atlantic Cape Community College
Audio-Technica U.S., Inc.
Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Austin Community College
Basic Education for Development
Beacon Hill Community Services, Inc.
Bella Luna Restaurant
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
BEST Hospitality Training Corps.
Blarney Stone Broadcasting, Inc.
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Boston Centerless
Broncos Community College
Brookdale Community College
Brooklyn Workforce Innovations
Broward Community Schools
Bucks County Workforce Development Board, Inc.
Building Skills Partnership
Burke County Literacy Council
Byte Back
California EDGE Coalition
Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute
California ACTE
Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Camden County College
Cara Chicago
Career and Technical Association of Texas
Career Development and Placement Strategies
Career Ladders Project
Career Link
Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Arkansas
Central City Concern
Central Iowa Works
Central Nine Adult Education
Central Ohio Technical College
Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation
Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation
Central Six AlabamaWorks!
Central States SER
Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development
Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.
Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland
Chemeketa Community College
Chester County OIC
Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition
Chicago Jobs Council
Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation
City of Estacada
City of Ironwood Economic Development Corporation
City of Sandy, Oregon
City Univeristy of New York
Clackamas County Social Services
Clackamas Workforce Partnership
Clover Park Technical College
Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)
Coalition on Temporary Shelter
Cobb Chamber of Commerce
Coconino Community College
Colorado Association for Career & Technical Education (CACTE)
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Northwestern Community College
Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education
Community Learning Center
Compass Policy Strategies LLC
Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education
Construction Education Foundation of GA (CEFGA)
ConxusNEO
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
Council for South Texas Economic Progress, Inc.
Crawford County Adult Education Center
Culinary Academy of Las Vegas
Cypress Assistance Ministries
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Delta County
Delta County Chamber Of Commerce
Delta County Economic Development Alliance
Delta Systems, Inc.
Denmark Technical College
Development Authority of Houston County
Development Authority of Jeffersonville-Twiggs Co
Development Authority of Monroe County
Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance
East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation
East Bay Economic Development Alliance
Eastern Iowa Community Colleges
Eastern UP Regional Planning and Development Commission
Easterseals Oregon
Eckerd Connects
Economic Development Department, Oregon City, OR
Edison Neighborhood Association
Education and Workforce Solutions
Education Northwest
Edunet Technologies
EMPath
Employment & Employer Services (E&ES)
Essential Education Corporation
Evolve Creative Group
Exceed Enterprises
Fairfield by Marriott Gaylord
Family Freedom Center
Fathers and Sons of Northeast OHIO
Fifth Avenue Committee
Four-M Associates, Communications Management
Fox Valley Literacy
Fremont Area Community Foundation
G. Stephens Inc.
Gateway consultants Group, Inc
Go Ye, Inc.
Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy, Penn State University
Goodwill Industries International, Inc
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas
Goodwill Southern California
Grabemeyer Consulting
Grand Island Public Schools
Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!
Greater Akron Chamber
Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Brownsville Incentives Corp
Greater Munising Bay Partnership/Alger Co. Chamber & Munising DDA
Greenville Literacy Association
Growing Home Inc.
GST Michigan Works
Harrisburg Area Community College
Hamlin-Lincoln County Libraries Adult Education Program
Harford Community College
Horizon Education Alliance Adult Pathways
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Heartland Alliance
Hegewisch Business Association
Hennepin Technical College
Heritage Ministries
Highland Community College
HIRE360 Chicago
Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Human Resource Development Foundation, Inc.
HumanKind
Hunter College
Indian Hills Community College
Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association
Illinois Workforce Partnership
Impact Equitable Justice Inc
IMPRINT
Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education
IndyPendence Job Corps
Instituto del Progreso Latino
Integrity Transformations Community Development Corporation
International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
IU13
Ivy Tech Community College
Jabil Healthcare Asheville
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
Jackson Hinds Library System
Jane Addams Resource Corporation - Baltimore
JE Dunn Construction
Jefferson College
Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis
Jewish Vocational Service San Francisco
Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest
Jobs for the Future
Jim and Kay Mabie!
JMPDX Property Management
Job Training for Beaver County, Inc.
JOG-Miami Valley
John A Logan College
Jewish Vocational Services SoCal
Kingman Area Literacy Program
Karen Organization of Minnesota
KentuckianaWorks
Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE)
Kern Literacy Council
Key Adult Academy
Keystone Technology Consultants
Kingman Area Literacy Program
Kingsport Chamber
Kirkwood Community College
Labor Institute for Training, Inc.
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College
Laclede Literacy Council
LaGuardia College
Lake Superior community partnership
Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board
Land of Sky Regional Council
Learn to Read of St. Johns County, Inc.
LearningWorks
Leung Consulting
Lincoln County Adult Literacy
Lincoln Land Community College
LISC Chicago
Literacy Coalition of Colorado
Literacy Council of Buncombe County
Literacy Council of Garland County, Arkansas
Literacy Council of Northwest Arkansas
Literacy Council of Reading -Berks
Literacy Council of Western Arkansas
Literacy Council Reading Berks
Literacy of Northern New York, Inc.
Literacy Pittsburgh
Literacy Services of Wisconsin
Literacy Texas
Literacy Volunteers of Campbell County Public Library
Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle
Literacy Volunteers of Collier County
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta
Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven
Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Loud Security Systems, Inc.
Luce County Economic Development Corporation
Lumber River Council of Governments
Lupson Associates LLC
Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven
Madden Industrial Craftsmen, Inc.
Margaret Walker Alexander Library
Marty Miles Consulting
Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education
Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Massachusetts Workforce Association
Metro Atlanta Chamber
Metropolitan Community College
MGEA Works
Michigan Works! Association
Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium
Michigan Works! Southwest
Michigan Works! West Central
Michigan Works! West Central
MicroMatters LLC
Mid-East Commission
Miles Fiberglass & Composites
Mills Machine Co
Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance
Milwaukee Tech Hub Coalition
Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
MIRA Coalition
MiraCosta College Technology Career Institute
Mississippi Delta Council for Farmworkers Opportunities, Inc.
Monroe Community College
Montgomery County Community College
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Center for Families Learning
National Coalition for Literacy
National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC)
National Association of Counties
National Association of Regional Councils
National Council of State Directors of Adult Education
National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)
National Association of Workforce Boards
National Coalition for Literacy
National League of Cities
National Taskforce on Tradeswomen’s Issues
National Skills Coalition
Neighborhood Resource Center
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New Horizons Computer Learning Centers
New Mexico Association for Career Technical Education
New Moms
New Readers Press-Ed-Tex
New Ways to Work
Newark Alliance
NewBridge Cleveland Center for Arts and Technology
Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE)
North Bay Leadership Council
North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards (NCAWDB)
North Country Workforce Development Board
North Orange County Chamber
Northeast Iowa Community College
Northern Wings
Northwest Oregon Works (NOW)
NOVA Workforce Institute of Northeast Louisiana
NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Orion Area Chamber of Commerce
OAI, Inc.
Oakland County Michigan Works!
Oakland Literacy Council
Oakmont Education
OGS Industries
Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education
Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents (OACTS)
Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career Technical Schools
Ohio Workforce Association
Onaway Community Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Pacific Health Education Center
OPEN M
Operation ABLE of Michigan
Opportunities Industrialization Center of Oklahoma County
Opportunity to Read - Watsonville Public Library
Oregon Community College Association
Oregon Tradeswomen
Ouachita Workforce Development Board 81
Ozark Literacy Council
PA CareerLink
PA CareerLink
Palisades Park Library
Palm Beach State College
Partnership Gwinnett
Pathstream
People inc.
Per Scholas, Inc.
Phalanx Family Services
Pickens County Adult Education
Pierpont Community and Technical College
Pleasanton Public Library
PODER
Polk State College
Port Jobs
Portland Community College
Potsdam Public Library
Precor
Private Industry Council
Proactive Community Services
Progressive Alliance Community Development Corporation
ProLiteracy
ProMedica
Proteus Inc.
Penn State College of Education
Piscataquis Valley Adult Education Cooperative
Pyramid Partnership, Inc.
Quad County Urban League
R4 Workforce
READ Lakeland, Inc.
Read Muskegon
ReadWest Inc.
REDF
Regional Office of Education #45
Research Allies for Lifelong Learning
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
Restore Education
Retired Adult Basic Educator/Workforce Trainer
Revolution Workshop
Rhodes Perry Consulting
Richland Community College
Rio Grande aValley Literacy Center
Rio South Texas Economic Council
Rogue Workforce Partnership
Round Rock Chamber
Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce
SAD60 Noble Adult and Community Education
Salice America, Inc.
San Antonio College
San Bernardino Public Library - Jack L. Hill Lifelong Learning Center
San Diego Imperial Counties Regional Consortium
San Diego Workforce Partnership
Santa Ana College
Southern Arkansas University Tech
Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corp.
Schoolcraft County Economic Development Corporation
SE Works, Inc.
Seattle Jobs Initiative
SelectCobb
Serenity Farms, Inc
Sierra Adult School
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College
Skills GAP Solutions LLC
Smooth Transitions LLC
South Asheville Hotel Associates, LLC
South Coast Literacy Council
South Street Ministries
South Street Reentry
Southeastern Illinois College
Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board
Southwest Economic Solutions (SWSOL.org)
Southwest Training Services, Inc.
SPELL Program at Hunter College
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
St. Cloud State University
Stark County Community Action Agency
Stark State College
Students With A Goal (SWAG)
Sutter Health
Synthomer Foundation (formerly OMNOVA SolutionsFoundation)
Systems Control
Tacoma Area Literacy Council
Tennessee Association of Career and Technical Education
The ARC Mid Hudson
The Bromfield Inn
The Center for Employment Opportunities
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
The Community Outcomes Fund at Maycomb Capital
The Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas, Inc.
The Gray House
The Greenville Literacy Association
The HANA Center
The House of the Lord
The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc.
The Learning Source
The Literacy Center
The Literacy Cooperative
The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon
The Tutorial Center
The Well Community Development Corporation
Theodore Roosevelt High School
Third Sector Capital Partners
Thomas P. Miller and Associates
ToolingU-SME
Tri County Jobs for Ohio's Graduates
Triangle South Literacy Works, Inc.
Trident Literacy Association
Turlock Federation of Classified Employees Local 2424A
Umpqua Community College
Union-Snyder Community Action Agency
UNITE-LA
United Home Healthcare
United Migrant Opportunity Services/UMOS Inc.
United Way Greater Toledo
United Way of Central Iowa
United Way of Connecticut
United Way Worldwide
United Ways of Texas
Upper Penninsula Building Trades Council
Upper Peninsula Construction Council
Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!
Urban League Metropolitan St. Louis
Vadxx Energy
Valv-Trol Co.
Vernon Regional Adult Based Education
Waite Associates
Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce
Warren Village
Washington ACTE
Washington Literacy Center
Wayne State University/Another Chance
Weatherford College
Welcome Back Initiative
Welcoming America
Wenatchee High School
West Philadelphia Skills Initiative
Western Area Career & Technology Center
Western Maryland Consortium
Whatcom Literacy Council
Whitewater Adult Education
Williamson, Inc.
Wilsonart, LLC
WNC Broadband Project
Women Employed
Worcester Community Action Council
Workforce Development Board Area 14
Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford
Workforce Solutions Group
WorkSource Cobb
Worksystems
World Education, Inc.
Witchita State University Tech
Western Upper Penninsula Planning
York Adult and Community Education
Youth Opportunities Unlimited
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
YWCA Tulsa, Immigrant and Refugee Services

cc: Representative Lowey, Representative Granger, Representative DeLauro, Representative Cole