BUSINESS LEADERS UNITED
FOR WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS

1250 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 200
Washington DC, 20036
P 202.223.8991

September 16, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune
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 Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Thune, and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your leadership as Congress evaluates funding for federal workforce programs in the FY27. The undersigned businesses and business associations respectfully urge you to maintain and strengthen investments in skills training and workforce development. These programs are a cornerstone of economic growth: they equip workers to move into in-demand roles, progress in their careers, and adapt to rapid technological shifts—while ensuring employers have access to the talent they need to succeed.

In a rapidly changing global economy—and amid accelerating technological advances driven by artificial intelligence—businesses need a workforce with access to high-quality, affordable, employer-aligned skills training. Employers are already navigating significant workforce pressures. Impending retirements, cross-industry competition for talent, and inadequate access to worker supports such as childcare and transportation will only intensify demand for skilled workers. These dynamics are particularly acute for small and mid-sized businesses, which often lack the resources to tackle these challenges on their own. Yet despite this growing need, the United States has chronically underinvested in its workforce systems and now lags far behind peer nations, limiting the ability of businesses to grow and compete. To meet both immediate and long-term needs, Congress must support robust investments in skills.

As you work together to finalize spending levels for FY27, we urge you to pass legislation that:

- Maintains or increases funding for federal workforce programs that serve adults and young people, including work-based learning and upskilling for current workers. These programs deliver employer-aligned training and education, and cutting current investments would weaken the talent pipeline businesses depend on to expand, innovate, and succeed.
- Provides dedicated funding for industry and sector partnerships. These partnerships give employers a direct role in shaping training and ensure workers receive the skills and services needed to be job-ready.
- Maintains the current maximum Pell Grant award for workers and students and closes the Pell funding gap. The recent expansion of Pell to shorter-term, employer-aligned

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training makes it an essential tool for building a skilled workforce. Preserving this investment ensures businesses can access the talent they need to meet demand and drive innovation.

U.S. businesses are committed to working with Congress to drive economic growth and ensure workers can access quality jobs. Federal workforce programs are central to that effort. The undersigned businesses and business associations urge you to secure and strengthen funding for these critical programs in FY27, without reducing current investment levels.

Sincerely,

ABC Eastern Pennsylvania
AccuRounds
AE Electrical Solutions
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Arkansas Advanced Energy Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance
Barton Malow
Boston Centerless
Business Council of New York State
The Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Catholic Charities of New Hampshire
C.D. Moody Construction
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Colonna's Shipyard, Inc.
Cook Group Incorporated
Copper Development Association
Country Maid
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation
DMI Companies, Inc.
East Bay Economic Development Alliance
Ecoviabl LLC
Electronic Security Association
Fairlead
Fargo-Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce
GO Topeka
Grand Rapids Chamber
Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Washington Partnership
Greensboro Chamber of Commerce
Gunnys Air Conditioning and Plumbing

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Hayden Machinery
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Idaho Forest Group LLC
IEC Chesapeake
IEC Pennsylvania
Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Indy Chamber
Jostin Construction
Journey Discovery Center
KWH Painting Service
Laystrom Manufacturing Co.
Longview TX Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
MACNY- Manufacturers Association of Central New York
Magee Electric Inc.
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Mass General Brigham
Metrics Reporting, Inc.
Metro Atlanta Chamber
Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association (MEECA)
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Mid South Extrusion, Inc.- Monroe, LA
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Tube Supply
Nevada Contractors Association
Next Generation in Trucking Association, Inc.
New Jersey Business and Industry Association
North Bay Leadership Council
North Easton Machine Co. Inc.
Optimax Systems Inc.
Pan Pacific Products
Phifer Incorporated
Premier Water Tanks
Prism Maritime Inc.
QED Systems, Inc.
Richards Industrials
River Bend Nursing & Rehabilitation
Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance
Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
SAP
SHINE

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Sierra Business Council
Small Business Legislative Council
Stratford Homes LP
TalentFirst, Inc.
Tech Council of Delaware
The Bernard Group
The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia
Thurston County Chamber of Commerce
Toyotetsu Texas
Trades NKY
Tufts Medicine
University of Vermont Health
Valley Industry and Commerce Association

Waukesha Metal Products
Wyoming Machine, Inc.
York County Economic Alliance