



## TALKING POINTS

- ❖ *For the U.S. to remain competitive in the global marketplace, we must invest in our workforce; economic competitiveness begins and ends with worker training, education and deployment.*
  
- ❖ *Over the past fifteen years, Congress has reduced funding for state job training grants by 40 percent, CTE grants by 30 percent, and adult education grants by 20 percent.*
  
- ❖ *Congressional and Administration proposals that increase funding for worker training initiatives will help business and turbocharge economic growth, as well as decrease the human and economic cost of unemployment across the country.*
  
- ❖ *Workforce Development is an economic development program that, in the process of helping businesses grow, also affects deeper societal issues.*
  
- ❖ *Local Workforce Boards promote business growth and economic opportunity in America by expediting talent matching and providing access to training programs that address skill gaps in a regionally tailored manner.*
  
- ❖ *Any discussion of federal workforce development legislation begins and ends with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which passed both houses of Congress in a bipartisan, near-unanimous vote in 2014.*
  
- ❖ *Supporting and reauthorizing WIOA is the common-sense solution to workforce development, putting business in the lead of decision making, while incorporating the voices of Labor, Education, and the Community.*



## Key Workforce Issues/Legislation

### **WIOA**

- Fund Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) workforce and adult education to at least authorized levels in the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill
- Maintain protections provided for local control contained in Section 106 of WIOA which allows local officials and workforce development boards to respond to local economic, employment, and workforce needs

### **Education & Training**

- Reauthorize the Higher Education Act to support students in completing an affordable postsecondary education that will prepare them to enter the workforce with the skills they need for lifelong success ([HR 4508](#), *PROSPER Act*)
- Expand Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in short-term job training programs to help students access training for the 5.5 million vacant jobs that are unfilled in part due to a shortage of qualified workers ([S 206](#), *JOBS Act*)
- Ensure that any infrastructure bill includes new dollars for training partnerships ([S. 1599](#), *BUILDS Act*)
- Reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to fund secondary and postsecondary CTE programs that meet the needs of local workers and businesses ([HR 2353](#), *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*)
- Update the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to expand access for adult TANF recipients to high-quality training and education that leads to in-demand credentials.
- Increase funding in the Farm Bill to help more SNAP participants gain access to high-quality education and training
- Invest in local capacity to develop effective work-based learning programs, such as Industry or sector partnerships, that reduce the burdens on businesses by convening local stakeholders to develop programs as well as the support workers need to succeed ([H.R. 4115](#), *PARTNERS Act*)
- Amend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to allow employers to offset the cost of employer-provided training