



Alamo Colleges District
Dallas College
Kentucky Community and
Technical College System
Lone Star College
Louisiana Community and
Technical College System
Metropolitan Community
College
Virginia Community
College System
Wisconsin Technical
College System

December 11, 2023

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC), I am writing to thank you for introducing both H.R. 6585, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, and H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act. Your leadership on the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act will lead to an unprecedented number of opportunities for students and workers to gain skills in high-quality, short-term programs that lead to well-paying jobs. Likewise, A Stronger Workforce for America Act makes critical improvements to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that will lead to successful careers for more Americans.

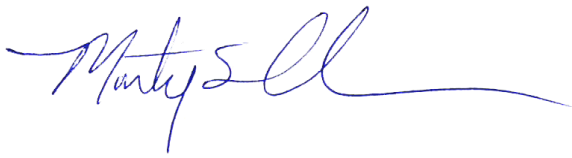
RAMC represents more than 120 community colleges and 1.5 million students nationwide. As you know, community colleges serve 45 percent of all first-time freshmen and 40 percent of our students are first-generation college students. Additionally, a significant proportion of our nation's minority undergraduates attend community colleges, including 44.6 percent of all African American undergraduates, 49.7 percent of all Hispanic undergraduates, and 48 percent of Native American undergraduates. Community colleges are open access, seek to make higher education accessible and affordable for everyone and match employers' need for a larger, more diverse workforce. We know the importance of preparing more Americans to enter the workforce with the skills necessary to compete for in-demand jobs, especially during times of economic recession or labor market contraction.

RAMC strongly supports efforts to expand Pell grants to short-term programs through the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act. Short-term credentials allow for flexible "on- and off-ramps" so that students gain skills valued by employers and gain access to well-paying jobs in middle-skilled occupations. For many individuals, a short-term credential is the first step towards earning a long-term certificate, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree. Federal support for such programs has the potential to yield substantial benefits to students and communities and ensures workers are not left behind. We appreciate the Committee's leadership and bipartisan introduction of this legislation and look forward to its passage in Committee this week.

Likewise, a greater focus on WIOA dollars for skilling and upskilling generally and funding for Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) is a critical improvement included in the A Stronger Workforce for America Act. Too often, WIOA does not have the funding or focus to deliver the services that workers need to succeed in our economy. RAMC recognizes the value of a WIOA more focused on skilling and upskilling and improved and better-funded ITAs.

Thank you again for your bipartisan leadership on these crucial improvements for the American workforce. RAMC looks forward to the passage of both of these bills in Committee and collaborating with you to further improve them as they move through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monty Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Monty Sullivan
Board President, Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC)
President, Louisiana Community and Technical College System

CC: Members of the House Committee on Education & the Workforce