



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

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Marshall  
479A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senators Kaine, Collins, Smith and Marshall:

On behalf of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC), I am writing to express strong support for S. 383, the bipartisan Jumpstarting Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act. RAMC recognizes all Americans, especially low-income and unemployed workers, need access to affordable postsecondary training and credentialing opportunities that can have a significant positive impact on their future career and earnings potential. RAMC supports this legislation, as it can provide opportunity for many Americans who are seeking a postsecondary education for employment in a high-wage career field.

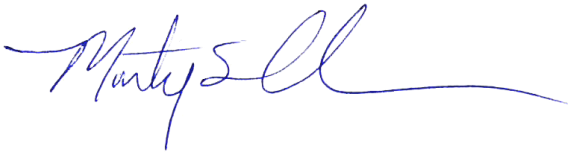
RAMC represents more than 75 community colleges and approximately 1 million students nationwide. Community colleges serve 45 percent of all first-time freshmen and 40 percent of our students are first-generation college students. Community colleges are open access, seek to make higher education accessible 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.

The JOBS Act would permit students enrolled at public and nonprofit institutions of higher education (IHEs) to receive Pell grants to cover the cost of programs that are at least 150 clock hours and provide instruction over at least 8 weeks. Currently, Pell grants cannot be awarded for programs of less than 600 clock hours in length, which leaves many high-quality and in-demand programs ineligible for Federal grant aid, and results in limited access to these programs for hardworking Americans. The expansion of eligibility for Pell Grants to short-term programs recognizes the shifting relationship between higher education and work in today's economy. 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 in such programs has the

potential to yield substantial benefits to students and communities and ensures workers are not left behind.

Thank you for your leadership on this important economic opportunity for Americans. RAMC looks forward to working with your offices to secure the enactment of the JOBS Act this Congress.

Sincerely,

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

Monty Sullivan

Board President, Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC)

President, Louisiana Community and Technical College System