



July 29, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We write to voice our enthusiastic support for the recently introduced bipartisan [Expanding Pathways to Employment Act](#), and to urge swift action on this important legislation.

As we emerge from the pandemic and work to avoid a “K-shaped” recovery that could leave behind rural communities, communities of color, individuals with barriers to employment, and families experiencing poverty, we have an opportunity to scale more inclusive and effective models for economic mobility. A growing list of workforce development, higher education, health, and human services programs have been shown, by rigorous and replicated evaluations, to sustainably increase wages, unlock opportunity, and improve lives. But to a remarkable degree, major federal funding streams largely do not currently support these programs, inhibiting their potential to scale to the millions of Americans experiencing systemic poverty who might benefit from these services.

The Expanding Pathways to Employment Act is a transformative new bill that would begin to upend this inequitable and unjust status quo. The bipartisan legislation links government-funded programs to measurable results by providing grants for the expansion of job-training and post-secondary education programs. Via a new \$700 million mandatory appropriation, the legislation sets aside dedicated funding for programs that have proven, based on rigorous evaluations, to work for their participants. Eligible programs will include those with statistically significant positive outcomes on earnings, student achievement, or degree completion. A program’s eligibility will depend on a number of factors including its impact relative to its cost, the quality of the evidence supporting it, and how intensively it focuses on promoting equity for those in historically underserved communities. A match requirement, which can be satisfied with other federal formula funds, is a strategic, strong incentive to steer dollars from long-standing federal programs toward these proven approaches in the coming years. Importantly, the bill also sets aside additional funding to prove the efficacy of a new cohort of innovative, promising approaches via dedicated funding for pilots combined with rigorous impact evaluations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We hope a Senate companion bill will be introduced soon. We further hope Congress will prioritize action on this proposal this fall, in the context of broader legislation on workforce development, education, human services, and economic mobility.

Sincerely,

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New Earth Organization
New Moms
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New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC)
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Root Cause
San Diego Workforce Partnership
SkillUp
Social Finance
StriveTogether
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The Workers Lab
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