

March 27, 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 express our strong support for the bipartisan Revitalize and Expand SNAP Education and Training for America's Future Act, or <u>RESET For America's Future Act</u>, introduced by Representatives Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Fred Upton (R-MI), and to call for the swift passage of the legislation.

As you know, the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) program serves hundreds of thousands of Americans working to achieve economic stability. And yet many more millions in this country live in poverty, many of them food insecure, and depend on SNAP to survive. The relatively modest reach of SNAP E&T within this broader population reflects the reality that too often the program is siloed, not well coordinated with other workforce programs, and unwieldy as a tool to fund effective, evidence-based services. Formidable match requirements substantially limit the program's reach, a problem that the current economic downturn has exacerbated. And under current rules, the moment an approach helps someone move into a job with a living wage, that individual loses eligibility, and cannot continue to be served by the very approach that is working.

The RESET For America's Future Act includes a number of common-sense improvements to SNAP E&T to strengthen the program, making it more effective, more inclusive, and more equitable. The bill creates an option for state and local governments to draw down SNAP E&T dollars with no match requirements, provided funding goes to evidence-based or outcome-oriented programs and services that increase participant earnings. The bill also helps better coordinate and align the program with other federal job-training programs, fully fund supportive services (such as transportation, or other expenses) associated with these types of effective programs, fund the associated costs necessary to rigorously track these program outcomes, and ensure participants benefitting from these effective programs are not penalized when the programs work. The bill does not create any new reporting or compliance requirements for communities; rather, it gives communities the option to opt-in to a framework that is more data-driven, more outcome-oriented, and better funded.

If Congress passes the RESET For America's Future Act, many more Americans served by this program could achieve economic security. We hope that you will prioritize this thoughtful, strategic set of reforms. We stand ready to help advocate for the bill to move forward. Thank you for your consideration.

AMERICA FORWARD, AN INITIATIVE OF NEW PROFIT, 1400 EYE STREET NW, SUITE 900, WASHINGTON DC 20005 ★ WWW.AMERICAFORWARD.ORG 🖈

Sincerely,

Organizations: Aliento Education Fund Alternative Staffing Alliance America Forward AppleTree Institute for Education and Innovation Bridgeways **Center for Employment Opportunities** Chrysalis **Citizen Schools Coalfield Development Corporation College Forward** Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab **COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project Diverse Charter Schools Coalition Economic Mobility Corporation Empowerment Plan** FareStart Goodwill Industries International Goodwill of Silicon Valley GreenLight Fund **Hopeworks** Camden Institute For Child Success Jobs for the Future (JFF) Juma Ventures JVS Boston LIFT Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) New Earth Organization New Profit North Lawndale Employment Network **Nurse-Family Partnership** PCS Family Services Inc.

Per Scholas **Project Evident** Project QUEST, Inc. **Quantified Ventures** Rancho Cielo Youth Campus RecycleForce Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) **Results for America** Roca **Root Cause** Social Finance Social Impact Architects Social Innovation Research Center Springboard Collaborative StriveTogether The Community Outcomes Fund at Maycomb Capital The Opportunity Network **Third Sector Capital Partners** Transcend, Inc. uAspire Workforce, Inc. DBA RecycleForce YouthBuild USA

Additional Individuals:

Amy O'Hara, Research Professor, Georgetown University Kathy Stack, Fmr. Deputy Associate Director for Education, Income Maintenance & Labor, OMB Duke Storen, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services