



December 11, 2023

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chair
House Education and the Workforce Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Education and the Workforce Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of America Forward, we congratulate you on the introduction of the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act (H.R. 6585). We lead the America Forward Coalition of 100+ social innovation organizations advocating for more effective, innovative, and equitable federal policies. The America Forward Coalition includes numerous organizations that deliver or help facilitate programs with a track record of providing economic mobility in high-need fields. We are grateful for the bill's provisions to expand access to Pell Grants for high-quality, short-term workforce-focused programs with demonstrated labor market value.

We are pleased that the introduced bill includes many of the ideas and priorities put forward by the Coalition, such as provisions which:

- Add robust outcome measures that are essential to protect students and the public and to clarify the marketplace for such programs;
- Support high-impact programs regardless of delivery method, including online programs, that are essential to expand access equitably to populations such as student caregivers; and
- Leverage administrative data to reduce burden on providers, improve reporting quality, and enhance transparency.

Unfortunately, H.R. 6585 as currently written does not allow for many of our Coalition members to directly participate because it excludes eligibility for high-quality non-institutional providers. As a result, non-institutional providers such as Per Scholas and Year Up that have demonstrated unparalleled, evidence-based impacts in supporting their participants' economic mobility would not be able to participate directly. As the bill advances, we would welcome an opportunity to provide input on provisions that would enable these organizations to more fully participate in the Workforce Pell program.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to this legislation. Thank you for considering our recommendations and we look forward to working with you to advance high-quality, short-term workforce-focused programs.

Sincerely yours,

Chase Sackett
Policy Director
America Forward

Karen Quarles
Government Affairs Director
America Forward