



March 20, 2024

Dear Senator Michael Bennet:

We write to express our enthusiastic support for the Better Jobs Through Evidence and Innovation Act, and to thank you for your vision and leadership in introducing this critical legislation.

Over the past decade, social innovators have developed a growing list of evidence-based workforce development programs that have proven to work, strengthen the economy, and increase economic mobility and opportunities for people nationwide. The most effective programs, such as sectoral training programs and employment social enterprises, are successful because they partner with employers and local stakeholders, provide targeted support services, produce industry-recognized credentials, and place workers in high-opportunity positions. While we now have a number of evidence funds across federal programs, workforce development is a major exception. As a result, there is little funding from the workforce system for these practical and evidence-based organizations to continue improving and scaling up their approaches as well as to develop new models that address emerging labor market needs.

The Better Jobs Through Evidence and Innovation Act is transformative legislation that creates a Workforce Development Innovation Fund that the workforce development system urgently needs. The bill provides three tiers of funding to support the development, evaluation, and scale-up of evidence-based employment and training programs that generate demonstrated, long-term economic improvements for job seekers and employers. It would enable various eligible entities to participate, such as State or local workforce boards, non-governmental organizations, tribal organizations, and higher education institutions. It also allows the most proven programs to focus their resources on continuous improvement and scale-up when additional experimental evaluation is no longer necessary.

As Congress debates the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), we urge members to include provisions of your bill into the final legislation. Thank you for championing this evidence-driven, equity-oriented legislation. We look forward to working with you and other supporters of the Better Jobs Through Evidence and Innovation Act.

Sincerely,

America Forward  
Results for America  
ActivateWork  
AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation  
Big Thought  
Braven  
Center for Employment Opportunities  
Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy  
Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative (CEEMI)  
Education Leaders of Color  
Exalt

FutureFit AI  
GreenLight Fund  
Jobs for the Future  
i.c.stars  
Knowledge Alliance  
Landforce  
LIFT Inc.  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
National Association of Workforce Boards  
National Skills Coalition  
One Million Degrees  
Opportunity@Work  
Per Scholas  
Progressive Policy Institute  
Project Evident  
Project QUEST  
Propel America  
REDF  
Social Finance  
Third Sector Capital Partners  
Third Way  
Vehicles for Change  
Year Up  
Kathy Stack, Senior Fellow, Yale University Tobin Center for Economic Policy and Federation of American Scientists