



May 4, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders,

On behalf of America Forward, Credential Engine, Data Quality Campaign, and Results for America, we write to encourage you to prioritize bipartisan deliberation and passage of comprehensive Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization legislation this Congress.

Each of our organizations is deeply invested in strengthening innovation, leveraging data-driven solutions, expanding evidence-based approaches, and ultimately improving outcomes in the workforce system:

- America Forward partners with the America Forward Coalition, a network of 100+ of our nation's most impactful and innovative non-governmental organizations, to advance a public policy agenda that fosters innovation, rewards results, and catalyzes cross-sector partnerships to advance opportunity for all. The America Forward Coalition includes numerous organizations that deliver or help facilitate programs with a track record of providing economic mobility in high-demand sectors.
- Credential Engine maps the credentials and skills ecosystem and enables full transparency through structured, open, linked, interoperable and durable (SOLID) data formats, of which the open source CTDL is the de-facto standard. We partner with federal, state and local agencies, education and training systems and providers, quality assurance bodies, employers and others to ensure that people are empowered with clear data to discover and pursue the pathways that are best for them.
- Data Quality Campaign (DQC) is a national nonprofit organization focused on changing the role of data to ensure that data is useful for individuals navigating their pathways through education and into the workforce. We advocate for data policies and practices that will result in better support and services to individuals—particularly policies and practices related to statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDSs), which are integrated data systems that contain early childhood, K–12, postsecondary, and workforce data.
- Results for America helps government leaders find, fund and implement solutions that work to accelerate upward economic mobility and improve lives. We work with federal, state and local government decision-makers to increase their use of evidence and data in budget, policy and program decisions.

Last Congress, each of our organizations formally supported the bipartisan, bicameral A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA), which incorporated long-needed, foundational improvements to our nation’s workforce system. We appreciated that ASWA incorporated many of our recommendations around performance improvement, including new opportunities for innovation and additional investment in skills development and supportive services; prioritizing open and interoperable data, learning, and investment in evidence-based strategies; expanding accessibility for providers and participants; and strengthening coordination across the system.

Recently, the House Education and the Workforce Committee passed a new version of ASWA. Each of our organizations joined an array of stakeholders in supporting the ***data and evidence provisions*** in that bill, which mirrored provisions of the bipartisan ASWA legislation that you led last Congress – but we recognize that a bipartisan approach, reflecting the strong consensus demonstrated last Congress, is necessary to achieve progress. Moving forward, we urge you to pursue a renewed, bipartisan effort that ultimately paves the way to a strong bipartisan, bicameral solution.

Finally, we encourage you to consider narrower, technical improvements to the bill aligned with the bipartisan approach of ASWA last Congress, such as the following:

- Revising the definition of “evidence-based” to reflect advances in the field and that builds on DOL’s evidence standards under the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program, as America Forward and Results for America proposed in our recent policy brief [Setting the Right Standard](#).
- Amending language governing pay-for-performance contracting authorities to ensure outcomes-based approaches are feasible, effective, and ultimately expand access for participants with barriers to employment.
- Incorporating an authority for a Workforce Development Innovation Fund, providing dedicated funding for the rigorous development, evaluation, and scale-up of evidence-based workforce programs, as America Forward and Results for America proposed in our brief [Promoting Innovation in Workforce Development](#). Rapid, AI-driven changes to our economy demand more agile, responsive strategies to support workers. This authority would align with multiple bipartisan proposals as well as advance the Trump Administration’s proposal to “explore ARPA-style experimentation models to test bold new ideas, evaluate real results, scale proven strategies, and prioritize AI literacy and skill development across the workforce system” under the *America’s Talent Strategy*.
- Refining accountability measures to reward actual career advancement and expand services to participants with greater needs. These efforts could include enhancing quality, streamlining reporting burden through a prospective national eligible training provider list (ETPL), and reducing fragmentation by aligning outcome metrics across WIOA, Workforce Pell, and postsecondary accountability systems.
- Ensuring that non-PII data is fully and *always* structured, open and interoperable, including data incorporated in talent marketplaces, credential registries, learning and employment records, and skills profile generators.

We deeply appreciate congressional members’ and staff’s extensive engagement with stakeholders last Congress to develop and refine such critical legislation to strengthen our

nation's education and workforce systems. We welcome the opportunity to support your efforts on these issues and others as you work to build out your priorities for the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

America Forward
Credential Engine
Data Quality Campaign
Results for America

CC: Senate Majority Leader John Thune
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
House Education and the Workforce Committee Chair Tim Walberg
House Education and the Workforce Committee Ranking Member Bobby Scott