



July 29, 2021

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Sherrill and McKinley:

We write to voice our enthusiastic support for the bipartisan [Expanding Pathways to Employment Act](#), and to thank you for your vision and leadership in authoring and introducing 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 championing this evidence-driven, equity-oriented legislation. We hope to see a Senate companion bill introduced soon. We further hope both chambers of Congress will prioritize action on this proposal this fall, especially in the context of broader legislation focused on workforce development, education, human services, and economic mobility.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

ActivateIT Powered by Per Scholas
Alianto Education Fund
Alternative Staffing Alliance
America Achieves

America Forward
AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
Arnold Ventures
Bottom Line



Braven
Bridgeways
Center for Employment Opportunities
Center for Living and Learning
Chicago Resiliency Network
Chrysalis
Citizen Schools
Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative
Denver Public Schools
Downtown Women's Center
Economic Mobility Corporation
Finding Common Purpose
Flare Education
FUSE Corps
Generation USA
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
GreenLight Fund
Homeward Bound of Marin
i.c.stars
Institute for Child Success
Jewish Vocational & Career Counseling Service (JVS)
Jobcase, Inc.
Juma Ventures
JVS SoCal
Keys2Work
Kitchens for Good
LA Conservation Corps
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership
Maycomb Capital/The Community Outcomes Fund
McPherson Strategies
New Earth Organization
New Moms
New Profit
New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC)
Nonprofit Finance Fund
Nurse-Family Partnership
Opportunity@Work
Per Scholas, Inc.
Project Evident
Project for Pride in Living

Project QUEST, Inc.
Propel America
Pursuit
Pursuit Transformation Company Inc
RecycleForce
Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF)
Results For America
San Diego Workforce Partnership
SkillUp
Social Finance
StriveTogether
Ten Count Consulting, LLC
The Opportunity Network
The Workers Lab
Third Sector Capital Partners
Transcend, Inc.
uAspire
UTEC
Valeo Vocation
Wyman
Year Up
YouthBuild USA

Key Individuals:

Amanda Burden, *Program Lead, Pursuit*
Cesar Carino, *Data Analyst, Pursuit*
Tony Cohn, *Morgridge Family Foundation*
Allison Devore, *Advisor & Board Member*
Don Fraser, *Chief Program Officer, Education Design Lab*
Raymond Gonzales, *Case Manager, Project 180*
Rebecca Maynard, *University Trustee Chair Professor Emeritus & Program Director, University of Pennsylvania*
Ted McCann, *Former Policy Advisor to Former U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan*
Erin Palumbo, *Sr. Programs Manager, The Last Mile*
Kathy Powers, *Vice President, Orion*
Kathy Stack, *Former Deputy Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget*
Dave Wilkinson, *Former Director, White House Office of Social Innovation; Former Chief Performance Officer, State of CT*