



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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February 27, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of TechNet, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 6585, the *Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act*. We urge the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation to expand skills and development opportunities for American workers, invest in America's domestic talent pipeline, and help America win the next era of innovation.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.2 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

TechNet believes that for the U.S. to compete on the global stage, we must focus on improving our workforce development system. Specifically, TechNet supports efforts to grow and strengthen America's talent pipeline by ensuring equitable access to digital skills training across occupations, encouraging and supporting American students to pursue careers in high-demand STEM fields, particularly computer science, as well as reforms to our nation's laws to attract and retain advanced STEM degree students from around the world who study at U.S. institutions of higher education to continue their career development in the U.S.

To further leverage these efforts, TechNet supports the expansion of online skills and workforce training programs to provide opportunities for underserved communities, particularly in rural America. This includes tax incentives for employers – especially small businesses – to incentivize significant new investments in the skills of the current workforce, as well as the greater use of innovation and data to make it easier for individuals to find available training opportunities that lead to high-demand and higher-wage jobs.

Lifelong learning, retraining, and reskilling policies and programs that allow workers to attain the education and skills they need to advance their careers will be a key component of any investment in America's workforce. The *Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act*, which makes significant investments in America's talent pipeline by allowing Pell Grants to support students enrolled in high-quality, short-term workforce programs, is exactly the kind of reform that will empower American workers and strengthen America's talent pipeline.

We applaud Representatives Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), as well as House Education and the Workforce Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA), for their steadfast commitment to advancing this bill in a bipartisan manner and commend you for your leadership in bringing this bill to the floor for consideration. We urge the House of Representatives to approve this bill and look forward to working with you to ensure America wins the next era of innovation.

Sincerely,



Peter Chandler
Senior Vice President, Federal Policy and Government Relations