



NOVA Back to Work
Leadership Task Force

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June 25, 2020

Northern Virginia Chamber of
Commerce

Northern Virginia Community
College

George Mason University

GO Virginia Region 7

Northern Virginia Economic
Development Alliance

Arlington Chamber of
Commerce

Prince William Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Reston Chamber of
Commerce

The Honorable Timothy Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Donald Beyer
U.S. House of Representatives
1119 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerald Connolly
U.S. House of Representatives
2238 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton
U.S. House of Representatives
1217 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Wittman
U.S. House of Representatives
2055 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Northern Virginia Representative:

We are writing you today to let you know of our support for several principles including in pending or previously introduced legislation related to workforce development. Our organizations believe substantially increased Federal investment is critical to expanding skills training opportunities and removing financial hurdles for individuals seeking to get the skills to return to work and fill high demand jobs.

As you know, a critical part of the economic recovery this country is embarking upon will be rebuilding the workforce. We understand that, right now, the focus of Congress is on the immediate needs of the country, particularly around direct economic stimulus. However, we believe work can be done now to ensure that the workforce will be there to turn that stimulus into true economic productivity.

With that in mind, we would ask you consider the following ways to help get workers training and certification they need to get back to work:

1. Create tax credits for individuals seeking training and upskilling. A broadly applicable tool like a refundable tax credit for workforce training can be a major boon for individuals seeking to return to work post-COVID. The Skills Renewal Act (HR 7032 and S 3779) creates a \$4,000 credit and we urge your support for that legislation as it is introduced at the Ways and Means Committee.
2. Allow the use of 529 account funds for post-secondary certifications. Making 529s available to use on certifications for recently

unemployed or underemployed people will be an incredible tool to get people quickly rehired. Rep. Wittman is the co-sponsor of HR 5339 which would create this change.

3. Make Pell grants available to individuals pursuing short-term workforce training. We wrote to you in April regarding this. Like the use of 529s, Pell grants would provide a useful tool to support those who seek help through local workforce boards.

These principles should be considered alongside the direct economic stimulus Congress has been creating during the COVID-19 crisis. In order to rebuild the economy, businesses will need a skilled workforce. Our region was facing a workforce shortage prior to COVID, and we have the opportunity now to make and encourage these kinds of individual investments to reduce or eliminate the financial hurdles for workers who want a better job and are willing to invest in themselves to get the necessary skills.

Sincerely,



Todd W. Rowley
Chairman, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Market Executive, Old Dominion National Bank
Board Member of NOVA, GO Virginia, Va. Career Works



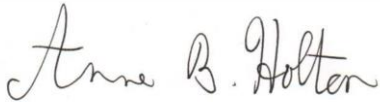
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Northern Virginia Economic Development
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Susana Marino, President and Chair,
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