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April 4, 2024

Dear Member of the U.S. House of Representatives:

On behalf of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC), I am writing to urge you to vote for H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, when the bill is scheduled for House floor consideration. This bill is critically important to advance skills and knowledge needed in America's workforce and will lead to successful careers for more Americans.

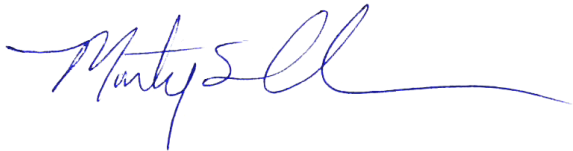
RAMC represents more than 120 community colleges and 1.5 million students nationwide. As you know, community colleges serve 45 percent of all first-time freshmen and 40 percent of our students are first-generation college students. Additionally, a significant proportion of our nation's minority undergraduates attend community colleges, including 44.6 percent of all African American undergraduates, 49.7 percent of all Hispanic undergraduates, and 48 percent of Native American undergraduates. Community colleges are open access, seek to make higher education accessible and affordable for everyone and match employers' need for a larger, more diverse workforce. We know the importance of preparing more Americans to enter the workforce with the skills necessary to compete for in-demand jobs, especially during times of economic recession or labor market contraction.

H.R. 6655 would make critical improvements to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that would strengthen the relationship between employers and a pipeline of talented workers. It would also expand and improve the quality of skills development provided under the law, allowing more Americans the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge they need to support their families and the economy. The bill's provisions to include funding for Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) and ensure more WIOA funding is used for skilling and upskilling services are critical improvements that will have positive impacts for workers and employers alike. Too often, WIOA does not have the funding or focus to deliver the services that workers need to succeed in our economy. RAMC recognizes the value of a WIOA more focused on skilling and upskilling and improved and better-funded ITAs.

Thank you again for your bipartisan leadership on these crucial improvements for the American workforce. RAMC urges final passage of H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, and looks forward to collaborating with you throughout the legislative process.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monty Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monty Sullivan
Board President, Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC)
President, Louisiana Community and Technical College System