



Education and Employment Committee Talking Points

Why This Team Exists: Advances equitable, high-quality education and workforce systems that ensure employers have access to skilled talent, while supporting policies that promote adaptable learning, fair labor practices, and strong pathways to meaningful employment.

What This Team Is Advancing This Year:

- Align federal education investments with regional workforce needs
- Expand apprenticeships, certificates, and short-term workforce training
- Support industry-aligned training programs that connect education to employment
- Strengthen pathways to family-sustaining careers across key sectors

REQUESTED ACTION:

The Capital Region urges federal policymakers to modernize workforce and education policy to align with real-time industry demand, accelerate infrastructure delivery, and expand access to family sustaining careers.

We request:

- Reauthorization and modernization of WIOA to strengthen sector-based partnerships, improve performance measures (credential attainment, wage progression, apprenticeship completion), and provide regional flexibility.
- Sustain and expand U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeship investments, with streamlined access for small and mid-sized employers.
- Expand short-term Pell eligibility and strengthen Perkins V to support high-quality, industry recognized credentials in priority sectors.
- Reduce duplicative regulatory and reporting requirements across workforce and education programs to lower administrative burden while maintaining accountability.
- Support employer-driven, stackable certification pathways aligned to infrastructure, clean energy, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, education, and technology sectors.



Name/Appointment Info	What They've Done for K12, Higher Ed, & Workforce	What They're Likely to Support
<p>Monday April 20 10:00-10:30am Congressman Kevin Kiley (Ind-CA) 2445 Rayburn House Office Building <i>Member Meeting</i></p>	<p>Introduced Modern Worker Empowerment Act Co-sponsored College Cost Reduction Act (118th Congress) Co-Sponsored Freedom to <i>Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act</i> (Alternative credentialing via 529 expansion)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost-effective, outcomes-driven workforce investments. • Employer-driven training and alternative credential pathways, reflected in co-sponsorship of the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act • AI readiness framed through education reform. • May align with regulatory streamlining and local control of K–12 efforts. • WIAO modernization, consistent with Modern Worker Empowerment Act and cosponsorship of College Cost Reduction Act.
<p>Monday April 20 10:30-11:00am Congressman Ami Bera (D-CA) 172 Cannon House Office Building <i>Member Meeting</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates for funding disadvantaged students. • Introduced Ensuring Access to General Surgery Act (HR 7198) addressing healthcare workforce shortages • Supported <i>America COMPETES Act</i> (expanding STEM) • Co-sponsored disability education bills. • AI workforce + STEM pipeline; bipartisan AI Task Force leadership. • Federal investments in transit + clean transportation workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on equity, student services, • and local economic growth through education. • Digital skills training • Healthcare workforce expansion in underserved areas (HR 7198) • Aviation



<p>Monday April 20 11:00-11:30am Congressman Josh Harder(D-CA) 209 Cannon House Office Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Workforce Readiness Act • Apprenticeships for Small Businesses Act • Protecting Health Care Workforce Pipelines Act Introduced in early 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Department of Labor Apprenticeships investments for youth • Expanding and modernizing agricultural and manufacturing training
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<p>Monday April 20,1:30-2:00pm Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA)- <u>Joint w/ Transportation</u> 454 Cannon House Office Building <i>Member Meeting</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secured federal investments for tech and cybersecurity education in Sacramento. ● Supports gender equity in higher education. ● Clean energy, infrastructure, and tech workforce. Introduced <i>Algorithmic Justice & Online Transparency Act</i> (AI impact on jobs, Transparency + workforce equity) ● AmeriCorps and National Service workforce pathways ● Telehealth 	<p>Supportive of expanded higher ed access, digital skills, and equity in education. Digital equity, AI governance, tech workforce (H.R.4624 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Algorithmic Justice and Online Platform Transparency Act Congress.gov Library of Congress</p>
<p>Monday, April 20 2:30-3:00pm Senate (HELP) Health, Education, Labor, Pension Sub Comm. Education & American Family Majority Committee 608 Hart Senate Office Building <i>Chad Miller Professional Staff</i></p>	<p>The HELP Committee has jurisdiction over various issues related to education and workforce development, including <i>Head Start, Higher Education, Student Financial Assistance, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), & Job and Vocational Training and the Workforce Investment Act.</i></p> <p>The Committee also monitors workforce and employment trends, and assists in tailoring federal law and regulation to changing patterns in the workplace.</p>	<p>Chair, Bill Cassidy supports Literacy, College Affordability, and workforce flexibility.</p>



<p>Tuesday April 21 10:00-10:30am Congressman Bobby Scott</p> <p>H2-230 Ford House Office Building <i>Scott Estrada, Professional Staff Member</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR 7340 <i>Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2026</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. • HR 4418 <i>Childcare for Working Families Act</i> <p>To increase the quality and supply of child care and lower child care costs for families</p>	<p>Childcare for working families Improving the <i>Workforce Innovation, and Opportunity Act (WIOA)</i>.</p>
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<p>Tuesday April 21 11:00-11:30am Senate (HELP) Health, Education, Labor, Pension Sub Comm. Education & American Family Minority Committee</p> <p>428 Dirksen Senate Office Building <i>Sara Garcia, Senior Policy Advisor</i> <i>Becca Brownstein, Legislative Aide</i></p>	<p>The HELP Committee has jurisdiction over various issues related to education and workforce development, including <i>Head Start, Higher Education, Student Financial Assistance, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), & Job and Vocational Training and the Workforce Investment Act.</i></p> <p>The Committee also monitors workforce and employment trends, and assists in tailoring federal law and regulation to changing patterns in the workplace.</p>	<p>Ranking Member, Bernie Sanders, regulation of AI and workforce, Supports for Higher Ed/ Student Aid</p>



<p>Tuesday April 21 12:00-12:30pm Congressman Mike Thompson</p> <p>268 Cannon House Office Building <i>Member Meeting</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-introduced H.R.1132 TRAIN for a Better America Act to expand Department of Labor grants. 2. Co-Sponsors H.R.6725 Jobs, On-the-Job Earn-While-You-Learn Training, and Apprenticeships for Young African-Americans Act to expand access to the national apprenticeship system 3. Supports H.R.6655 A Stronger Workforce for America Act aims to reauthorize and modify various workforce development programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) through FY2030 4. Supports H.R.7355 Early Childhood Workforce Advancement Act of 2024 to support career and technical education programs of study in early childhood education. 	<p>Access and Inclusive Expansion of Apprenticeship programs, consistent with cosponsorships of HR 6725 Jobs, On-the-Job Earn-While-You-Learn Training, and Apprenticeships for Young African-Americans Act</p> <p>Expanding and Modernizing WIOA</p>
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<p>Tuesday April 21 12:00-12:30pm Congresswoman Virginia Foxx</p> <p>2462 Rayburn House Office Building <i>Jason Harvey, Senior Legislative Assistant</i></p>	<p>HR 8102 Workforce Investments Accountability Act To amend the <i>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act</i> to enhance the performance accountability system and dedicate funding to skills development.</p>	<p>Increased Modernization and Accountability with the <i>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)</i>, consistent with Committee focus on performance outcomes and workforce flexibility</p> <p>H.R.6655 - 118th Congress (20232024): A Stronger Workforce for America Act</p>



<p>Tuesday April 21 2:30-3:00pm Congressman Tom McClintock</p> <p>2256 Rayburn House Office Building <i>Chandler Carter, Legislative Aid</i></p>	<p>Rural Economic Development and Public Lands Management Initiatives tied to federal lands, including employment in rural communities. (2023–2026)</p> <p>Higher Ed & Workforce Oversight</p>	<p>Focused on rural workforce access and employer-driven workforce models (nontraditional workforce training legislation). May support federal regulation and increased local control on workforce and educ systems.</p>
<p>Tuesday April 21 3:00-4:00pm US Department of Commerce- Office of the Secretary/ EDA</p> <p>TBD <i>Robert McCleod, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs</i> <i>Caleb Spencer, EDA Staff</i></p>	<p>The Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides grants to economically distressed communities to generate new employment, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth.</p>	<p>The U.S. Economic Development Administration's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers - innovation and regional collaboration.</p> <p>Consistent with WIOA modernization request.</p>
<p>Wednesday April 22 10:00-10:30am Department of Education, Office of Career Technical and Adult Education <u>Joint w/ Public Safety</u></p> <p>400 Maryland Ave, SW Washington, DC 20202 LBJ 4A156 <i>Alexandria Meeting Room</i> <i>Nick Moore, Acting Assistant</i></p>	<p>Career and Technical Education</p> <p>The Division of Academic and Technical Education is responsible for helping all students acquire challenging academic and technical skills</p> <p>Administering state formula and discretionary grant programs under</p>	<p>Build public support for community colleges as centers of innovation and providers of excellent education and training that are affordable and accessible to all Americans (Perkins V)</p> <p>Facilitate the dissemination of timely and actionable guidance</p>

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<p><i>Secretary</i></p>	<p><i>the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins V).</i></p> <p>OCTAE provides national leadership to strengthen the role of community colleges in expanding access to postsecondary education and advancing workforce</p>	<p>on community college educations for teachers, administrators, students</p> <p>Promote the development of strategies that support students in the completion of their postsecondary certification and degree programs.</p>
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