

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write in strong support of the Relaunching America's Workforce Act which provides \$15.1 billion for vitally needed workforce programs and urge its inclusion in any future COVID relief and stimulus packages. While the challenge of protecting the public health remains pressing, planning for what comes next must also be prioritized. Given unemployment numbers increase weekly, urgent action is needed to provide U.S. workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to get back to work and to spur the U.S. economy.

Our collective member companies are the most innovative in the world and key drivers of job and economic growth. Based on U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis data, the estimated direct economic impact of the tech industry was \$1.9 trillion in 2019, representing 10 percent of the national economy. Before the current crisis, demand for workers with tech skills and experience was already significant as employers across industries pursued digital transformation strategies. This need will inevitably grow in the coming weeks, months and years as businesses, government and the public sector become even more reliant on technology in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Relaunching America's Workforce Act would make commonsense investments in workforce programs that will create opportunities for displaced workers to be reskilled or upskilled in order to meet the needs of a reshaped job market. Investing in a future ready workforce by providing pathways to get people working again is the fastest and surest way to ensure our economy flourishes. This legislation will help tens of millions of dislocated workers and fund essential workforce training opportunities for well-paying and secure tech-based jobs available today.

We are hopeful you will consider these important investments in workforce programs as you determine the path forward for the next COVID relief and stimulus packages. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully,

ACT | The App Association
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Engine
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Internet Association (IA)
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)

Cc: Representatives Bobby Scott, Andy Levin, Suzanne Bonamici, Susan Davis, Joaquin Castro, Marcia Fudge, Lucy McBath, Susie Lee, Haley Stevens, Joe Courtney, Senators Patty Murray, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, and Tina Smith.