

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The technology industry and other skills-based industries are expanding in the United States. Meanwhile, companies in these industries are struggling to find the skilled-labor they need to fill the growing amount of vacant jobs. Alternative education models, such as apprenticeships and career and technical education (CTE) programs can help address this issue by providing the American workforce with the skills it needs to succeed in these industries. With this in mind, we respectfully request that you include strong investments in apprenticeship and CTE programs in any final FY18 appropriations package.

In 2016, the technology industry contributed approximately \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy, employed nearly 7 million Americans and added over 100,000 new jobs. However, this growing industry has been met with a severe shortage of skilled workers. The skilled-labor gap led to more than 600,000 unfilled jobs in the final quarter of 2016 alone. It is vital to the technology industry and the growth of the U.S. economy that companies have access to a skilled workforce.

The technology industry relies on a workforce equipped with a precise set of skills that does not necessarily require a four-year degree. Learning skilled-labor can begin as early as high school and give young Americans the opportunity to earn high-paying jobs in the technology industry. Apprenticeships, for example, give companies the opportunity to directly train workers with the skills they need to fill their job vacancies with a well-equipped workforce. Alternative,

skills-based educational models like apprenticeships and CTE programs will help close the vast skilled-labor gap and stimulate further economic growth in the United States.

We thank you for your continued support of apprenticeships and CTE programs. Promoting a skilled workforce is important now, more than ever. We hope you will include language that invests in these kinds of alternative education models when finalizing appropriations for FY18.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress