



September 9, 2021

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

On behalf of the nation's 1,044 community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) write in strong support of the budget reconciliation legislation the Ways and Means Committee is slated to mark up over the coming days. In particular, we enthusiastically welcome the reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (TAACCT) program. Reauthorization of TAACCT or a similar program is a longstanding top priority of our associations.

The TAACCT program was a resounding success in its prior four years of funding. It enabled community colleges across the nation to expand and improve their workforce education programs, helping the country recover from the Great Recession and reskilling workers for the 21st Century economy. Support enabled community colleges to build new programs, often working together through new statewide or industry-based consortia. The nation now has a pressing need for another round of TAACCT funding to aid those impacted by the rapidly changing economy. The legislation will be instrumental in meeting that need by providing \$9.1 billion over 7 years for the TAACCT program.

The bill would also continue and expand the Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) programs. HPOG provides wraparound services for qualifying individuals enrolled in training programs to help them attain entry-level healthcare jobs. Many students in community college programs need these services, just as the economy needs their skills.

We look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation and have it signed into law.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D.
President and CEO, AACC

J. Noah Brown
President and CEO, ACCT