Relaunching America’s Workforce Act
An overview of H.R. 6646 / S. 3659

On May 1, 2020, the House Education and Labor Committee introduced the Relaunching America’s Workforce Act H.R. 6646. A Senate version of the bill was introduced on May 7. This bill takes steps towards providing much needed program and financial support for youth and adults in career and technical education (CTE) and workforce training. Additional action is necessary to ensure that new resources and relaxed requirements support our most vulnerable populations.

NAPE Perspective

Key action areas:

- Congress must provide program support for CTE and workforce training students. In the midst of this emergency, it is important that marginalized students—particularly those acutely disadvantaged by COVID-19—experience equitable access.

- Congress must appropriate funds directed towards identifying and closing gaps in access to technology as hands-on learning becomes virtual.

- Various support services and training programs must be used to ensure equitable access to pathways towards high-skill jobs in high-demand industries.

Bill at a glance:

Relaunching America’s Workforce Act

Major provisions

The bill provides:

- Over $10 billion to state and local public workforce systems to support dislocated workers, employers, youth, and adults seeking work through workforce training activities while prioritizing short-term training for health care and essential workers.

- $1 billion to expand the capacity of adult education providers and prioritize serving adults with low-literacy that have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

- $1 billion to support Perkins CTE programs and activities, along with waivers allowing increased flexibility in how recipients retain and pool funds.

- $2 billion to restart the community college career training grant program that was started during the Great Recession to help employers identify talented hires and job seekers find employment opportunities.

Congressional support:

House bill sponsor
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA-3)  
Cosponsors: 21
Dem: 21
GOP: 0

Senate bill sponsor
Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)  
Cosponsors: 8
Dem: 8
GOP: 0

Sources: Congress.gov, House Education & Labor Committee, CTE Policy Watch.