



September 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

Thank you for your work to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including legislation that has helped to blunt the immediate impact of the crisis on America's families, workers, businesses, and economy. We write to request that Congress provide continued support for workers as you consider further legislation to address the impact of the pandemic on our workforce.

As of the date of this letter, the economy is down 12.9 million jobs, businesses are struggling, and American workers are left wondering what work will look like in the months ahead. At the same time, new kinds of work are emerging, including increased domestic manufacturing of PPE, contact tracing, and frontline healthcare roles. Since jobs in these industries are emerging quickly, there is a significant need to invest in workforce development solutions to close a skills gap that exists between this new work and the workers seeking to fill these important roles. Unfortunately, this couldn't happen at a worse time, as federal investments in skills training has decreased by nearly 40% over the last two decades, and traditional job training programs are too small and rarely serve more than 5% of the eligible population.

An immediate investment in our workforce is not just needed for these new roles, but it is also critical for preparing American workers for a post-COVID world where workers will need to adapt quickly to rejoin a fast-changing workforce. Research conducted by McKinsey & Company before the COVID-19 pandemic found that 50% of today's work activities could be automated by 2055, and the pandemic is likely to accelerate this trend. Jobs that have been lost to COVID-19 may never return, but we can accelerate our recovery by investing in workforce training programs that will benefit workers who are newly unemployed, front-line workers who are stuck and lack the resources to reskill, and workers in industries that are quickly disappearing due to Future of Work trends.

A survey from Cornell University found that 31% of workers who were recently rehired have lost their jobs for a second time during the pandemic, and another 26% have been



told that they might be laid off again. This is why we need to make workforce investment a priority in any future legislation aimed at combatting the impact of COVID-19. As you consider additional legislative action to get our workforce ready for the future, we urge you to support workforce training that raises up all workers by:

- **Reskilling** workers in COVID-19 impacted jobs and industries, including individuals who have lost their jobs, work in changed environments, and those who are starting new jobs.
- **Aligning** companies (startups, SMB's and large enterprises), education providers, public workforce divisions and community organizations to form a network of "Non-traditional Industry Partnerships" that work for all workers.
- **Investing** in a future of work infrastructure that leverages technology to reach workers – regardless of tenure or job title – with a specific focus on our most vulnerable workers.
- **Supporting** a worker's freedom to learn and upskill anytime, anywhere.
- **Eliminating** discrimination that restricts a worker's ability to fairly compete, acquire new skills, and access training opportunities.

The future of work is no longer in the future, it is now. The jobs that will emerge in the decades to come will require creativity and the ability to learn quickly, and it is our responsibility to ensure we give every worker a chance to succeed when they show up to work.

We believe in the people that power our workforce, and we need your help more than ever. We look forward to working with you to help move our workforce forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Caucci', written in a cursive style.

Sam Caucci
Founder & CEO | **1Huddle**

[Signature List Hidden]