

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6623

To advance STEM education, provide for improved worker, training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. HANABUSA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, Natural Resources, Oversight and Government Reform, Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To advance STEM education, provide for improved worker, training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Working On Reward-
5 ing and Keeping Employees Resilient Act” or the
6 “WORKER Act”.

1 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—ADVANCING STEM EDUCATION

Subtitle A—Expansion of Engineering Programs at Elementary and Secondary Schools

Sec. 101. Grant program.

Sec. 102. Table of contents.

Subtitle B—Expansion of Maker Education and Makerspaces

Sec. 110. Definitions.

Sec. 111. State leadership activities.

Sec. 112. Local uses of funds.

Subtitle C—Increasing Women and Under-Represented Minorities in STEM Occupations

Sec. 131. Support for programs that increase the participation of women and under-represented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics occupations.

TITLE II—WORKER, TRAINING, RETENTION, AND ADVANCEMENT

Subtitle A—Development of Work-Based Learning Programs

Sec. 201. Purpose.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. Grants authorized.

Sec. 204. Application process.

Sec. 205. Activities.

Sec. 206. Administration by the Secretary.

Sec. 207. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Reemployment

Sec. 211. Requirement to provide reemployment bonus program under State unemployment compensation law.

Sec. 212. Coordinating State unemployment compensation programs with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Sec. 213. Permissible use of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds for wage insurance.

Sec. 214. Training vouchers.

Sec. 215. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DISTRESSED COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AGENCY

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Sec. 302. Distressed community investment agency.

Sec. 303. Redesignation of Department of Commerce to Department of Innovation and Investment.

Sec. 304. Redesignation of Secretary of Commerce to Secretary of Innovation and Investment.

TITLE IV—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **TITLE I—ADVANCING STEM 2 EDUCATION**

3 **Subtitle A—Expansion of Engineering Programs at Elementary 4 and Secondary Schools**

6 **SEC. 101. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Part F of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7251 et seq.) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in section 4601—

11 (A) in subsection (a), in the matter pre-
12 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “(other than
13 subpart 5)” before “part”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR SUB-
16 PART 5.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry
17 out subpart 5—

18 “(1) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
19 and 2020; and

20 “(2) \$21,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
21 and 2022.”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 **“Subpart 5—Engineering Education**

2 **“SEC. 4651. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
4 under section 4601(c), the Secretary shall award grants,
5 on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to implement
6 formal and informal engineering education programs in el-
7 ementary schools and secondary schools to—

8 “(1) teach students the overall analytical and
9 experimental approaches used in engineering and en-
10 gineering technology; and

11 “(2) increase participation of under-represented
12 student groups in the engineering and engineering
13 technology pipeline.

14 “(b) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant awarded
15 under this subpart may not exceed \$1,000,000.

16 “(c) MATCHING FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving
17 a grant under this subpart shall provide non-Federal
18 funds in amount equal to the grant amount. Such non-
19 Federal funds may include in-kind support (such as equip-
20 ment, supplies, materials, and participation of personnel
21 in the development and implementation of activities to be
22 carried out under the grant).

23 “(d) USES OF FUNDS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving
25 a grant under this subpart shall use such funds to
26 carry out a program that—

1 “(A) provides engineering instructional
2 materials based on review and analysis of the
3 effectiveness of existing formal, or informal re-
4 search-based and evidence-based locally relevant
5 instructional materials;

6 “(B) provides professional development for
7 pre-service and in-service teachers to teach en-
8 gineering;

9 “(C) provides instructions on engineering
10 and engineering technology during normal
11 classroom hours or after school;

12 “(D) incorporates evidence-based practices
13 to increase diversity of student groups partici-
14 pating in the program;

15 “(E) encourages participation of engineers
16 from local private and public organizations to
17 mentor the teachers and students; and

18 “(F) encourages engineering faculty and
19 students from institutions of higher education
20 as mentors for the elementary school or sec-
21 ondary school students, and teachers as appro-
22 priate.

23 “(2) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—Each
24 eligible entity awarded a grant under this subpart
25 shall be encouraged to carry out the program funded

1 under the grant in partnership with one or more of
2 the following:

3 “(A) Elementary schools or secondary
4 schools receiving assistance under this subpart.

5 “(B) Institutions of higher education.

6 “(C) Private sector businesses.

7 “(D) Nonprofit organizations.

8 “(E) Community-based organizations.

9 “(F) Public or private entities with dem-
10 onstrated record of success in delivering edu-
11 cational support.

12 “(G) Summer school programs.

13 “(e) APPLICATIONS.—An application for a grant
14 under this subpart submitted by an eligible entity shall
15 demonstrate long-term commitment for the proposed pro-
16 gram through—

17 “(1) providing laboratory and instructional
18 space;

19 “(2) establishing ongoing professional training
20 programs for pre-service and in-service teachers and
21 teachers in-residence; and

22 “(3) commitment to scaling successful pro-
23 grams for engineering and engineering technology
24 education in elementary schools and secondary
25 schools under the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

1 “(f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sub-
2 part, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
3 that serve under-represented minorities in engineering.

4 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
6 tity’ means—

7 “(A) a consortia of local educational agen-
8 cies; or

9 “(B) a local educational agency that is not
10 receiving a subgrant under this subpart for the
11 fiscal year for which the agency is applying for
12 a grant under this subpart.

13 “(2) INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.—The term
14 ‘instructional materials’ means materials that—

15 “(A) emphasize—

16 “(i) engineering fundamentals and
17 concepts, problem-based learning; and

18 “(ii) essential skills such as systems
19 thinking, creativity, teamwork, communica-
20 tion, and ethical considerations;

21 “(B) are designed to introduce students to
22 modern engineering and engineering technology
23 tools such as computer-aided design, computer-
24 aided manufacturing, statistical analysis, codes

1 and standards, human factors, and reliability
2 analysis; and

3 “(C) are aligned with and integrated into
4 relevant science, engineering, and mathematics
5 standards that may exist in the applicable State
6 or may be developed.

7 **“SEC. 4652. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

8 “Not later than 1 year after the first grant is award-
9 ed under this subpart, and annually thereafter, the Sec-
10 retary shall provide a report to Congress on activities and
11 results under this subpart. Such reports shall describe—

12 “(1) the total number of grant applications re-
13 ceived for the preceding each year;

14 “(2) the number and geographic distribution of
15 the grants for such year and for all grants awarded
16 under this subpart;

17 “(3) participation of minority-serving institu-
18 tions of higher education, such as historically Black
19 colleges and universities and Hispanic-serving insti-
20 tutions;

21 “(4) participation of under-represented and eco-
22 nomically disadvantaged student groups;

23 “(5) plans for collaboration among eligible enti-
24 ties receiving a grant under this subpart;

1 “(6) overall program outcomes and issues of
2 concern; and

3 “(7) recommendations for program revisions to
4 achieve the desired program outcome.”.

5 **SEC. 102. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

6 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary
7 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is amended by in-
8 serting after the item relating to section 4644 the fol-
9 lowing:

“SUBPART 5—ENGINEERING EDUCATION

“4651. Grant program authorized.

“4652. Annual report to Congress.”.

10 **Subtitle B—Expansion of Maker
11 Education and Makerspaces**

12 **SEC. 110. DEFINITIONS.**

13 Section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
14 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302) is amended
15 by adding at the end the following:

16 “(35) MAKER EDUCATION.—The term ‘maker
17 education’ means a hands-on learning approach that
18 encourages students to imagine, create, innovate,
19 tinker, and collaborate through the process of manu-
20 facturing, testing, and demonstrating their ideas.

21 “(36) MAKERSPACE.—The term ‘makerspace’
22 means a community space that provides access to
23 tools, technology, and knowledge for learners and

1 entrepreneurs, that result in the prototyping or cre-
2 ation of physical goods, and which supports the de-
3 velopment of educational opportunities for personal
4 growth, workforce training, and early stage business
5 ventures.”.

6 **SEC. 111. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.**

7 Section 124 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
8 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2344) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in subsection (b)(3)(D)(iii), by inserting be-
11 fore the semicolon at the end the following: “and
12 maker education”; and

13 (2) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
15 graph (16);

16 (B) by striking the period and inserting “;
17 and” at the end of paragraph (17); and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(18) support for maker education and
20 makerspaces.”.

21 **SEC. 112. LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.**

22 Section 135 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
23 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2355) is amend-
24 ed—

25 (1) in subsection (b)(5)—

- 1 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
2 paragraph (C);
3 (B) by adding “and” at the end of sub-
4 paragraph (D); and
5 (C) by adding at the end the following:
6 “(E) programs designed to train teachers
7 specifically in the effective use and application
8 of maker education and makerspaces;”; and
9 (2) in subsection (c)—
10 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
11 graph (19);
12 (B) by redesignating paragraph (20) as
13 paragraph (21); and
14 (C) by inserting after paragraph (19), the
15 following:
16 “(20) to support maker education and
17 makerspaces; and”.

1 **Subtitle C—Increasing Women and**
2 **Under-Represented Minorities**
3 **in STEM Occupations**

4 **SEC. 131. SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS THAT INCREASE THE**
5 **PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND UNDER-REP-**
6 **RESENTED MINORITIES IN SCIENCE, TECH-**
7 **NOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS**
8 **OCCUPATIONS.**

9 Section 124(b) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
10 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2344(b)) is
11 amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the
13 end;

14 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at
15 the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(10) supporting programs that increase the
18 participation of women and under-represented mi-
19 norities in career and technical education programs
20 leading to occupations in science, technology, engi-
21 neering, and mathematics.”.

1 **TITLE II—WORKER, TRAINING,**
2 **RETENTION, AND ADVANCE-**
3 **MENT**

4 **Subtitle A—Development of Work-**
5 **Based Learning Programs**

6 **SEC. 201. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this subtitle is to promote industry
8 or sector partnerships that engage in collaborative plan-
9 ning, resource alignment, and training efforts across mul-
10 tiple businesses, for a range of workers employed or poten-
11 tially employed by infrastructure industries, in order to
12 encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to im-
13 prove worker training, retention, and advancement.

14 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this subtitle:

16 (1) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION; CA-
17 REER GUIDANCE AND ACADEMIC COUNSELING.—The
18 terms “career and technical education” and “career
19 guidance and academic counseling” have the mean-
20 ings given such terms in section 3 of the Carl D.
21 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
22 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

23 (2) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career
24 pathway” has the meaning given such term in sec-

1 tion 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
2 Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

3 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
4 ty” means an entity that is an industry or sector
5 partnership, a nonprofit workforce intermediary, or
6 (with respect to an implementation grant) an entity
7 that is in the process of establishing an industry or
8 sector partnership.

9 (4) INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOY-
10 MENT; INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP; LOCAL
11 BOARD.—The terms “individual with a barrier to
12 employment”, “industry or sector partnership”, and
13 “local board” have the meanings given such terms in
14 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
15 tunity Act.

16 (5) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
17 TIAL; REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
18 The terms “recognized postsecondary credential”
19 and “registered apprenticeship program” have the
20 meanings given such terms in such section.

21 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of Labor.

23 (7) STATE; STATE BOARD.—The terms “State”
24 and “State board” have the meanings given such

1 terms in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and
2 Opportunity Act.

3 (8) TARGETED INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY.—

The term “targeted infrastructure industry” means an industry, including transportation (including surface, transit, aviation, or railway transportation), construction, energy, information technology, manufacturing, or utilities industries, that the eligible entity identifies in accordance with section 204(c) to be served by a grant under this subtitle.

11 (9) WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM.—The

12 term “work-based learning program” means a pro-
13 gram (which may be a registered apprenticeship pro-
14 gram) that provides workers with paid work experi-
15 ence and corresponding approved classroom instruc-
16 tion, delivered in an employment relationship that
17 both the employer and worker intend to be perma-
18 nent.

19 SEC. 203. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
21 with the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of En-
22 ergy, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Edu-
23 cation, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
24 Agency, and the Chief of Engineers and Commanding
25 General of the Army Corps of Engineers, shall award, on

1 a competitive basis, grants to eligible entities to plan and
2 implement activities to achieve the strategic objectives de-
3 scribed in section 204(d) with respect to a targeted infra-
4 structure industry.

5 (b) GRANTS.—

6 (1) TYPES OF GRANTS.—A grant awarded
7 under this subtitle may be in the form of—

8 (A) an implementation grant, for entities
9 seeking an initial grant under this subtitle; or
10 (B) a renewal grant for entities that have
11 already received an implementation grant under
12 this subtitle.

13 (2) DURATION.—Each grant awarded under
14 this subtitle shall be for a period not to exceed 3
15 years.

16 (3) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant awarded
17 under this subtitle may not exceed—

18 (A) for an implementation grant,
19 \$2,500,000; and
20 (B) for a renewal grant, \$1,500,000.

21 (c) AWARD BASIS.—

22 (1) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Secretary
23 shall award grants under this subtitle in a manner
24 that ensures geographic diversity in the areas in
25 which activities will be carried out under the grants.

- 1 (2) PRIORITY FOR RENEWAL GRANTS.—In
2 awarding renewal grants under this subtitle, the
3 Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
4 that—
5 (A) demonstrate long-term sustainability of
6 an industry or sector partnership or nonprofit
7 workforce intermediaries; and
8 (B) provide a non-Federal share of the
9 cost of the activities.

10 **SEC. 204. APPLICATION PROCESS.**

- 11 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a grant
12 under this subtitle shall submit an application to the Sec-
13 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such
14 information as the Secretary may require, including the
15 contents described in subsection (b).
16 (b) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under this
17 subtitle shall contain, at a minimum—
18 (1) a description of the eligible entity, evidence
19 of the eligible entity's capacity to carry out activities
20 to achieve the strategic objectives described in sub-
21 section (d), and the expected participation and re-
22 sponsibilities of each of the partners included in the
23 industry or sector partnership involved;
24 (2) a description of the targeted infrastructure
25 industry served by the grant, and a description of

1 how such industry was identified in accordance with
2 subsection (c);

3 (3) a description of the workers that will be tar-
4 geted or recruited by the partnership, including an
5 analysis of the existing labor market, a description
6 of potential barriers to employment for targeted
7 workers, and a description of strategies that will be
8 employed to help workers overcome such barriers;

9 (4) a description of the strategic objectives de-
10 scribed in subsection (d) that the eligible entity in-
11 tends to achieve concerning the targeted infrastruc-
12 ture industry;

13 (5) a description of the credentials that the eli-
14 gible entity proposes to use or develop as a perform-
15 ance measure, to assess the degree to which the eli-
16 gible entity has achieved such strategic objectives,
17 which credentials—

18 (A) shall be nationally portable;

19 (B) shall be recognized postsecondary cre-
20 dentials or a registered apprenticeship; and

21 (C) shall be related to the targeted infra-
22 structure industry that the eligible entity pro-
23 poses to support;

1 (6) a description of the manner in which the eli-
2 gible entity intends to make sustainable progress to-
3 wards achieving such strategic objectives;

4 (7) performance measures for measuring
5 progress towards achieving such strategic objectives;

6 (8) a description of the Federal and non-Fed-
7 eral resources, available under provisions of law
8 other than this subtitle, that will be leveraged in
9 support of the partnerships and activities under this
10 subtitle;

11 (9) a description of the recruiting tools used by
12 the eligible entity to recruit a diverse pool of workers
13 and under-represented minorities in the infrastruc-
14 ture sector; and

15 (10) a timeline for progress towards achieving
16 such strategic objectives.

17 (c) TARGETED INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY.—Each
18 grant under this subtitle shall serve a targeted infrastruc-
19 ture industry that is identified by the eligible entity
20 through working with businesses, industry associations
21 and organizations, labor organizations, State boards, local
22 boards, economic development agencies, and other organi-
23 zations that the eligible entity determines necessary.

24 (d) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.—The activities to be
25 carried out under each grant awarded under this subtitle

1 shall be designed to achieve strategic objectives that in-
2 clude the following:

3 (1) Recruiting key stakeholders in the targeted
4 infrastructure industry, such as multiple businesses,
5 labor organizations, local boards, and education and
6 training providers, including providers of career and
7 technical education, and regularly convening the
8 stakeholders in a collaborative structure that sup-
9 ports the sharing of information, ideas, and chal-
10 lenges common to the targeted infrastructure indus-
11 try.

12 (2) Identifying the training needs of multiple
13 businesses in the targeted infrastructure industry,
14 including—

15 (A) needs for skills critical to competitive-
16 ness and innovation in the industry;
17 (B) needs of the registered apprenticeship
18 programs or other work-based learning pro-
19 grams supported by the grant; and
20 (C) needs for the usage of career path-
21 ways.

22 (3) Facilitating actions that lead to economies
23 of scale by aggregating training and education needs
24 of multiple businesses.

1 (4) Helping postsecondary educational institu-
2 tions, training institutions, sponsors of registered
3 apprenticeship programs, and all other providers of
4 career and technical education and training pro-
5 grams receiving assistance under this subtitle, align
6 curricula, entrance requirements, and programs to
7 the targeted infrastructure industry needs and the
8 credentials described in subsection (b)(6), particu-
9 larly for higher skill, high-priority occupations re-
10 lated to the targeted infrastructure industry.

11 (5) Providing information on the grant activi-
12 ties to the State agency carrying out the State pro-
13 gram under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49
14 et seq.), including staff of the agency that provide
15 services under such Act, to enable the agency to in-
16 form recipients of unemployment compensation of
17 the employment and training opportunities that may
18 be offered through the grant activities.

19 (6) Helping partner businesses in industry or
20 sector partnerships to attract potential workers from
21 a diverse jobseeker base, including individuals with
22 barriers to employment, by identifying any such bar-
23 riers through analysis of the labor market and im-
24 plementing strategies to help such workers overcome
25 such barriers.

1 **SEC. 205. ACTIVITIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a
3 grant under this subtitle shall—

4 (1) designate an entity in the industry or sector
5 partnership as the fiscal agent for the grant funds;
6 and

7 (2) carry out activities described in subsections
8 (b) (as applicable), (c), and (d) to achieve the stra-
9 tegic objectives identified in the entity's application
10 under section 204(b)(5), in a manner that integrates
11 services and funding sources to ensure effectiveness
12 of the activities and that uses the grant funds effi-
13 ciently.

14 (b) PLANNING ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiv-
15 ing an implementation grant under this subtitle shall use
16 not more than \$250,000 of the grant funds to carry out
17 planning activities during the first year of the grant pe-
18 riod. Such activities may include—

19 (1) establishing the industry or sector partner-
20 ship;

21 (2) convening key stakeholders as identified in
22 the application process;

23 (3) conducting outreach to local businesses and
24 business associations; or

25 (4) conducting an evaluation of workforce needs
26 in the local area.

1 (c) BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT.—An eligible entity re-
2 ceiving a grant under this subtitle shall use the grant
3 funds to provide services to engage businesses in efforts
4 to achieve the strategic objectives identified in the entity's
5 application under section 204(b)(5). The services may in-
6 clude assisting businesses—

7 (1) in navigating the registration process for a
8 sponsor of a registered apprenticeship program;

9 (2) by connecting the business with an edu-
10 cation provider, including a provider of career and
11 technical education, to develop classroom instruction
12 to complement on-the-job learning;

13 (3) in developing the curriculum design of a
14 work-based learning program;

15 (4) in employing workers participating in a
16 work-based learning program for a transitional pe-
17 riod before a business hires the worker for full-time
18 employment not less than 30 hours a week;

19 (5) in providing training to managers and
20 front-line workers to serve as trainers or mentors to
21 workers participating in a work-based learning pro-
22 gram;

23 (6) in providing career awareness activities,
24 such as career guidance and academic counseling;
25 and

1 (7) in recruiting, for participation in a work-
2 based learning program, individuals eligible to re-
3 ceive additional workforce or human services, includ-
4 ing—

15 (C) recipients of assistance through the
16 program of block grants to States for tem-
17 porary assistance for needy families established
18 under part A of title IV of the Social Security
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); or

(D) any other individuals with a barrier to employment.

22 (d) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The eligible entity receiv-
23 ing a grant under this subtitle shall use the grant funds
24 to provide services to support the success of individuals
25 described in subsection (c)(7) who are participating in a

1 work-based learning program for a period of not less than
2 12 months. Such services may include the following:

3 (1) PRE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—Services,
4 provided in a pre-employment stage of the program,
5 to expand access to a work-based learning program
6 for individuals described in subsection (c)(7). Such
7 services may include—
8 (A) skills training;
9 (B) career and technical education;
10 (C) initial assessments;
11 (D) providing work attire and necessary
12 tools for a work site;
13 (E) wrap-around services, such as child
14 care and transportation; and
15 (F) job placement assistance.

16 (2) EARLY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—Services
17 provided to individuals described in subsection (c)(7)
18 who are participating in a work-based learning pro-
19 gram during their first 6 months of employment
20 through such program, to assure the individuals suc-
21 ceed in the program. Such services may include—
22 (A) ongoing case management and support
23 services, including the services provided in the
24 pre-employment stage described in paragraph
25 (1);

1 (B) continued skills training, including ca-
2 reer and technical education, conducted in col-
3 laboration with employers of such individuals;

4 (C) additional mentorship and retention
5 supports for such individuals;

6 (D) targeted training for frontline man-
7 agers, journey level workers working with such
8 individuals (such as mentors), and human re-
9 source representatives within the business
10 where such individuals are placed; and

11 (E) subsidized wages and benefits for a pe-
12 riod of not more than 6 months, during which
13 the eligible entities shall serve as the employers
14 of record of such individuals.

15 (3) EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—Services to en-
16 sure the individuals described in paragraph (2)
17 maintain employment in the work-based learning
18 program for at least 12 months. The services shall
19 include support necessary to complete the work-
20 based learning program, such as continuation of
21 mentoring and support services provided under para-
22 graph (2).

23 (e) EVALUATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not
24 later than 1 year after receiving a grant under this sub-
25 title, and annually thereafter, the eligible entity receiving

1 the grant shall submit a report to the Secretary and the
2 Governor of the State that the eligible entity serves,
3 that—

4 (1) describes the activities funded by the grant;
5 and

6 (2) evaluates the progress the eligible entity has
7 made towards achieving the strategic objectives iden-
8 tified under section 204(b)(5).

9 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible entity may
10 use not more than 5 percent of the funds awarded through
11 a grant under this subtitle for administrative expenses in
12 carrying out this section.

13 **SEC. 206. ADMINISTRATION BY THE SECRETARY.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use not more
15 than 10 percent of the amount appropriated under section
16 207 for each fiscal year for administrative expenses to
17 carry out this subtitle, including the expenses of providing
18 the technical assistance and oversight activities under sub-
19 section (b).

20 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; OVERSIGHT.—The Sec-
21 retary shall provide technical assistance and oversight to
22 assist the eligible entities in applying for and admin-
23 istering grants awarded under this subtitle.

1 **SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated \$350,000,000
3 to carry out this subtitle through fiscal year 2023.

4 **Subtitle B—Reemployment**

5 **SEC. 211. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE REEMPLOYMENT**
6 **BONUS PROGRAM UNDER STATE UNEMPLOY-**
7 **MENT COMPENSATION LAW.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Social Security
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 503) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(n)(1) For purposes of subsection (a), the State law
12 of a State must provide for a reemployment bonus pro-
13 gram, to be approved by the Secretary of Labor, under
14 which a reemployment bonus, in an amount specified
15 under paragraph (2), shall be paid, immediately following
16 the end of the 16-week period described in subparagraph
17 (B), to any individual described in paragraph (3) who—

18 “(A) becomes employed by an employer other
19 than the individual’s most recent employer not later
20 than 12 weeks after the date of the individual’s ini-
21 tial claim for unemployment compensation; and

22 “(B) remains employed by such employer for a
23 period of at least 16 consecutive weeks.

24 “(2) The amount of a reemployment bonus paid to
25 an individual under paragraph (1) shall be an amount
26 equal to ½ of the difference between the total amount of

1 regular compensation that would be payable to the individual
2 during the benefit year under the State law if the individual
3 were not employed in any week of such benefit year and the total amount of such regular compensation
4 paid to the individual during the benefit year prior the week in which the individual becomes employed as described in paragraph (1)(A).

8 “(3) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who—

10 “(A) is eligible for unemployment compensation for the week before the week in which the individual becomes employed as described in paragraph (1)(A); and

14 “(B) has been identified under subsection (j) as an individual likely to exhaust regular compensation.

16 “(4) In this subsection, the terms ‘regular compensation’ and ‘benefit year’ have the meanings given such terms in section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Employment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note).”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall, with respect to a State, apply to certifications for payment under section 302(a) of the Social Security Act in years beginning after the end of the 26-week period beginning on the first day of the first regu-

1 larly scheduled session of the State legislature beginning
2 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 212. COORDINATING STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COM-**
4 **PENSATION PROGRAMS WITH THE WORK-**
5 **FORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.**

6 (a) **REFERRALS TO WIOA SERVICES.**—Section
7 303(j)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 503(j)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “job search assist-
9 ance services” and inserting “job search assistance, train-
10 ing assistance, job relocation support, and income support
11 services.”.

12 (b) **REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY AS-**
13 **SESSMENTS.**—Section 306(b)(3) of the Social Security Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 306(b)(3)) is amended by striking “program
15 integration and service delivery” and inserting “program
16 integration, service delivery, support services, and avail-
17 ability of training assistance”.

18 **SEC. 213. PERMISSIBLE USE OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION**
19 **AND OPPORTUNITY ACT FUNDS FOR WAGE**
20 **INSURANCE.**

21 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 3 of subtitle B of title
22 I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
23 U.S.C. 3171 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
24 the following:

1 **“SEC. 135. PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS FOR WAGE INSUR-**2 **ANCE.**3 “(a) WAGE INSURANCE FOR STATE UNEMPLOYMENT
4 COMPENSATION RECIPIENTS.—A State may use funds al-
5 lotted to the State under this chapter to provide a wage
6 insurance program for individuals who file a claim under
7 any State unemployment compensation law.8 “(b) BENEFITS.—The wage insurance program pro-
9 vided for in subsection (a) may pay, for a period not to
10 exceed 2 years, to a worker described in subsection (c),
11 up to 50 percent of the difference between—12 “(1) the average of the wages received by the
13 worker over the last twelve months of employment;
14 and15 “(2) the wages received by the worker from re-
16 employment.17 “(c) INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY.—The benefits de-
18 scribed in subsection (b) may be paid to an individual who
19 is a claimant for unemployment compensation at the time
20 such individual obtains reemployment and who—21 “(1) is at least 50 years of age, or 45 years of
22 age if such individual lives in a distressed commu-
23 nity;24 “(2) earns not more than \$50,000 per year in
25 wages from reemployment;

1 “(3) is employed on a full-time basis as defined
2 by the law of the State; and

3 “(4) is not employed by the employer from
4 which the individual was last separated.

5 “(d) TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—A State shall
6 establish a maximum amount of payments per individual
7 for purposes of payments described in subsection (b) dur-
8 ing the eligibility period described in such subsection. An
9 employee shall report an increase in wages during the two-
10 year period of participating in the wage insurance pro-
11 gram and their total amount of payments shall reflect any
12 modification.

13 “(e) NON-DISCRIMINATION REGARDING WAGES.—
14 An employer shall not pay a worker described in sub-
15 section (c) less than such employer pays to another worker
16 in the same or substantially equivalent position.

17 “(f) DISTRESSED COMMUNITY DEFINED.—The term
18 ‘distressed community’ means a geographic unit, as de-
19 fined by the Secretary of Commerce, with—

20 “(1) a low per capita income;

21 “(2) an unemployment rate below the national
22 average; or

23 “(3) actual or threatened severe unemployment
24 or economic adjustment problems.”.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
2 136 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
3 U.S.C. 3181) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(d) WAGE INSURANCE ACTIVITIES.—There are au-
6 thorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities de-
7 scribed in section 135 such sums as may be necessary for
8 fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

9 **SEC. 214. TRAINING VOUCHERS.**

10 (a) REFERENCE.—In this section, any reference to
11 a section or other provision shall be a reference to the
12 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

13 (b) FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.—Section
14 101(d)(3) is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “; and”
16 and inserting a semicolon;

17 (2) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period
18 and inserting “; and”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(H) the development of strategies to pro-
21 mote the integration of workforce development
22 services to unemployment insurance claim-
23 ants.”.

1 (c) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN STATE PLANS.—

2 Section 103(a)(2) is amended by adding at the end the
3 following:

4 “(L) the employment and training assist-
5 ance authorized in this Act; and

6 “(M) the job search support services au-
7 thorized in this Act.”.

8 (d) LOCAL PLANS.—Section 108(b) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (21), by striking “; and” and
10 inserting a semicolon;

11 (2) in paragraph (22), by striking the period
12 and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(23) a description of how training assistance
15 will be administered.”.

16 (e) REQUIRED LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
17 ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS AND DISLOCATED WORKERS.—

18 (1) TRAINING VOUCHERS.—Section 134(c)(3) is
19 amended—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

21 (i) by inserting “a voucher for” after
22 “used to provide”; and

23 (ii) by redesignating subclauses (II),
24 (III), and (IV) as subclauses (III), (IV),

1 and (V), and inserting after subclause (I)
2 the following:

3 “(II) who select programs of
4 training services that are linked to
5 employment opportunities.”;

6 (B) in subparagraph (F)—

7 (i) in clause (iii), by deleting the
8 clause heading and inserting “TRAINING
9 VOUCHERS.—” and by striking “through
10 an individual training account” and insert-
11 ing “through a training voucher”; and

12 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking “coordi-
13 nate funding for individual training ac-
14 counts with funding from other Federal,
15 State, local, or private job training pro-
16 grams or source” and inserting “and ar-
17 range for payment for such services
18 through a training voucher. Such payments
19 may not exceed \$8,000 for up to two
20 years.”; and

21 (C) in subparagraph (G)(i), and by strik-
22 ing “individual training accounts” and inserting
23 “training vouchers”.

24 (2) INCOME SUPPORT.—Section 134(d)(1)(B) is
25 amended—

5 (B) in clause (ii), by; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 to section 134 of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
2 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174) by the amendments
3 made by this subsection.

4 **SEC. 215. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 Section 137 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
6 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 2872) is amended in each of sub-
7 sections (b) and (c) by striking “2003” and inserting
8 “2023”.

9 **TITLE III—ESTABLISHMENT OF**
10 **THE DISTRESSED COMMU-**
11 **NITY INVESTMENT AGENCY**

12 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this title:

14 (1) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” has the
15 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
16 United States Code.

17 (2) **DISTRESSED COMMUNITY.**—The term “dis-
18 tressed community” means a geographic unit, as de-
19 fined by the Secretary of Commerce, with—

20 (A) a low per capita income;

21 (B) an unemployment rate below the na-
22 tional average; or

23 (C) actual or threatened severe unemploy-
24 ment or economic adjustment problems.

5 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means any
6 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
7 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
8 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth
9 of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession
10 of the United States.

11 SEC. 302. DISTRESSED COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AGENCY.

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Dis-
13 tressed Community Investment Agency within the Depart-
14 ment of Commerce one year after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act with the mission of promoting, estab-
16 lishing, and strengthening venture capital investment in
17 distressed communities, including expenses of grants, con-
18 tracts, and other agreements with public or private enti-
19 ties.

20 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The Distressed Community Invest-
21 ment Agency shall—

1 strengthening of venture capital investment in dis-
2 tressed communities;

3 (2) promote the mobilization of activities and
4 resources of State and local governments, businesses
5 and trade associations, institutions of higher edu-
6 cation, foundations, professional organizations, and
7 volunteer and other groups towards the promotion,
8 establishment, and strengthening of venture capital
9 investment in distressed communities;

10 (3) facilitate the coordination of the efforts of
11 groups described in paragraph (2) with those of
12 agencies;

13 (4) establish satellite centers in distressed com-
14 munities across the United States for the develop-
15 ment, collection, summarization, and dissemination
16 of information helpful to persons, State and local
17 governments, businesses and trade associations, in-
18 stitutions of higher education, foundations, profes-
19 sional organizations, and volunteer and other groups
20 in undertaking or promoting venture capital invest-
21 ment in distressed communities;

22 (5) make grants, including contracts and coop-
23 erative agreements, to any State government or any
24 agency thereof, any regional entity, any State-char-
25 tered development, any institution of higher edu-

1 cation, or to any entity formed by two or more of
2 the above entities to assist in establishing the sat-
3 ellite centers described in paragraph (4);

4 (6) provide technical and management assist-
5 ance to public or private entities or organizations en-
6 gaged in promoting, establishing, and strengthening
7 venture capital investment in distressed communities
8 through workforce development and retention, at-
9 tracting businesses and industries, fostering innova-
10 tion, accelerating entrepreneurship and business
11 growth, and marketing local, State, and regional
12 ecosystems; and

13 (7) defray all or part of the costs of pilot or
14 demonstration projects conducted by public or pri-
15 vate entities or organizations which are designed to
16 overcome the unique challenge of promoting, estab-
17 lishing, and strengthening venture capital invest-
18 ment in distressed communities, or otherwise to fur-
19 ther the purposes of this Act.

20 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF COM-
21 MERCE.—The Secretary of Commerce, to enable the Dis-
22 tressed Community Investment Agency to better execute
23 the functions described in this section and with the partici-
24 pation of the Economic Development Administration and
25 other agencies, as appropriate, shall—

1 (1) develop comprehensive plans and specific
2 program goals for the Distressed Community Invest-
3 ment Agency;

4 (2) establish regular performance monitoring
5 and reporting systems to assure that goals are being
6 achieved;

7 (3) evaluate the impact of Federal support in
8 achieving the objectives established by this title;

9 (4) require a coordinated review of all proposed
10 Federal training and technical assistance activities
11 in support of promoting, establishing, and strength-
12 ening venture capital investment in distressed com-
13 munities to assure consistency with the program
14 goals of the Distressed Community Investment
15 Agency and to avoid duplication;

16 (5) convene, for purposes of coordination, meet-
17 ings of the heads of agencies, or their designees,
18 whose programs and activities may affect or con-
19 tribute to the purposes of this title;

20 (6) convene economic development organiza-
21 tions, venture capitalists, startup founders, entre-
22 preneurs, chambers of commerce, and other rep-
23 resentatives of the private sector who are engaged in
24 growing venture capital investment in distressed
25 communities or who could contribute to this growth

1 to propose, evaluate, and coordinate governmental
2 and private activities in furtherance of the objectives
3 of this title;

4 (7) confer with and advise officials of State and
5 local governments;

6 (8) provide the managerial and organizational
7 framework through which joint or collaborative un-
8 dertakings with agencies or private organizations
9 can be planned and implemented; and

10 (9) recommend appropriate legislative or execu-
11 tive actions.

12 (d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—

13 (1) COOPERATION.—The head of each agency,
14 or a representative designated by such head, when
15 and in the manner so requested by the Secretary of
16 Commerce, shall furnish information, assistance, and
17 reports to, and shall otherwise cooperate with, the
18 Distressed Community Investment Agency.

19 (2) DESIGNATION OF AGENCY CONTACT.—The
20 head of each agency shall, when so requested by the
21 Secretary of Commerce, designate the official to
22 have primary and continuing responsibility for the
23 participation and cooperation of that department or
24 agency in matters related to promoting, establishing,

1 and strengthening venture capital investment in dis-
2 tressed communities.

3 (3) AGENCY CONTACT DUTIES.—Each official
4 designated pursuant to paragraph (2), when so re-
5 quested, shall keep the Secretary of Commerce in-
6 formed of all proposed budgets, plans, and programs
7 of the agency of that official related to promoting,
8 establishing, and strengthening venture capital in-
9 vestment in distressed communities.

10 (4) CONTINUING ROLE OF AGENCIES.—Each
11 agency shall continue all efforts to promote, estab-
12 lish, and strengthen venture capital investment in
13 distressed communities, and shall cooperate with the
14 Secretary of Commerce in increasing the total Fed-
15 eral effort.

16 (e) REPORTS.—

17 (1) REPORTS REQUIRED BY SATELLITE CEN-
18 TERS.—Not later than September 30 of each year,
19 each satellite center shall submit to the Secretary of
20 Commerce a report on the activities of the center,
21 including the following:

22 (A) The center's performance in imple-
23 menting the plans and meeting the specific pro-
24 gram goals set for the prior fiscal year.

(B) The plans and specific program goals of the center for the next fiscal year.

(C) Completed and ongoing joint and collaborative undertakings with the groups described in subsection (b)(2).

(D) The services most used by the center.

(E) Recommendations for improving the quality, utility, and delivery of services offered by the Distressed Community Investment Agency.

(F) Any other information requested by the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) REPORTS BY THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this title and every March 31 thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to Congress a report on the following:

(A) The activities of the Distressed Community Investment Agency.

(B) The location of new and existing satellite centers.

(C) The performance of the Distressed Community Investment Agency in implementing the plans and meeting the specific program goals set for the prior fiscal year.

(D) The plans and specific program goals
for the next fiscal year.

(E) Expenses of grants, contracts, and other agreements with public or private entities.

(F) Completed and ongoing joint or collaborative undertakings with agencies and the groups described in subsection (b)(2).

(G) Meetings convened by the Secretary
with heads of agencies, representatives of the
private sector, or officials of State and local
governments.

(H) A review and evaluation of the impact
of Federal support in achieving the objectives
established by this title.

20 (A) develop and implement systematic data
21 collection processes to provide the Distressed
22 Community Investment Agency current data
23 helpful in evaluating efforts to promote, estab-
24 lish, and strengthen venture capital investment
25 in distressed communities; and

(B) not later than September 30 of each year, submit to the Secretary of Commerce a report on efforts to promote, establish, and strengthen venture capital investment in distressed communities through workforce development and retention, attracting businesses and industries, fostering innovation, accelerating entrepreneurship and business growth, and marketing local, State, and regional ecosystems.

10 (f) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

11 Section 12 of the Act of February 14, 1903 (15 U.S.C.
12 1511), is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (4), by inserting a semicolon
14 at the end;

15 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and
16 inserting a semicolon;

“(6) Distressed Community Investment Agency;
and”.

1 SEC. 303. REDESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF COM-
2 MERCE TO DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION
3 AND INVESTMENT.

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Commerce is
5 hereby redesignated the Department of Innovation and In-
6 vestment.

7 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Department
8 of Commerce in any law, rule, regulation, certificate, di-
9 rective, instruction, or other official paper in force on the
10 date of the enactment of this title shall be considered to
11 refer and apply to the Department of Innovation and In-
12 vestment.

13 SEC. 304. REDESIGNATION OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

14 TO SECRETARY OF INNOVATION AND INVEST-

15 MENT.

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce is
17 hereby redesignated the Secretary of Innovation and In-
18 vestment.

19 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Secretary of
20 Commerce in any law, rule, regulation, certificate, direc-
21 tive, instruction, or other official paper in force on the
22 date of the enactment of this title shall be considered to
23 refer and apply to the Secretary of Innovation and Invest-
24 ment.

1 **TITLE IV—AUTHORIZATION OF**
2 **APPROPRIATIONS**

3 **SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
5 retary of Labor and the Secretary of Education such sums
6 as may be necessary to carry out each Secretary's respon-
7 sibilities under this Act.

