



February 27, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

The Skills First Coalition, a consortium of employers and innovative education providers advocating to advance policies that invest in and strengthen the alignment between education and skills training for in-demand jobs, is writing today to express our **strong support for H.R. 6585, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, and urges its swift passage.**

We advocate for skills first policies that shift the focus from traditional degrees as proxies for knowledge to verifiable competencies and skills that help widen the talent pool and provide more opportunities for all Americans. As AI and other emerging technologies transform industries and jobs, it is critical that we modernize ways Americans access federal student financial aid as they seek learning opportunities to gain in-demand skills that employers are looking for today and put them on career paths for jobs of tomorrow.

The Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act would ensure quality programs qualify through careful measurement of outcomes. H.R. 6585 also rightly recognizes that the majority of students are working learners who require flexible and innovative learning models, including online and hybrid opportunities.

We commend the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for favorably reporting this bipartisan bill on December 12, 2023, and urge you to **vote YES** on the House floor.

Sincerely,

The Skills First Coalition

IBM

Cengage Group

Autos Drive America

Charter Oak State College

Chegg

Dallas College

Excelsior University

HP Inc.

Ivy Tech Community College

LinkedIn

National University

Northern Virginia Community College

Presidents Forum

Purdue University Global

Randstad

Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)

Samsung

Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)

Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

University of Maryland Global Campus

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Western Governors University

cc: The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce
The Honorable Bobby Scott, Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and the Workforce
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions,
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
The Honorable Elise Stefanik