



JOBS AND CAREERS COALITION PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES 2022

1/ Employer-sponsored job training. The coalition worked closely with Sen. Tom Cotton's staff to develop a new approach to job training that provides direct financial support for employers who offer upskilling for new hires and incumbent workers. Modeled on classic, European-style apprenticeship but significantly more flexible – government approval is streamlined, and training can be as short as six months – the Cotton approach empowers companies rather than high schools, community colleges or workforce development boards to make decisions about what kinds of training businesses need and how it should be delivered.

The JCC provided two opportunities – two virtual meetings – for the senator's staff to consult with coalition members about the provisions of the bill. The staff made a number of changes in response to our feedback, and the coalition sent a [letter](#) of support when the legislation was introduced in early fall.

2/ WIOA. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is overdue for reauthorization, and the coalition has been working with education committee staff in both chambers over the past two years, providing input on overhauling the legislation so it works better for employers.

When the House majority produced a draft in early 2022, the coalition sent a [letter](#) expressing a mix of support and concern. We also [weighed in](#) later in the year when the bill came to the House floor for a vote. We expect the 118th Congress to revisit the legislation in coming months and look forward to providing our input about what business needs from the public workforce system.

Even as Congress deliberates, the administration took an important step this fall, issuing a proposed rule to codify the metric states must use to evaluate whether or not the workforce system is delivering for employers. After some consideration, the coalition decided it disagreed with administration's decision about which of three potential metrics would be most telling and we submitted a [comment](#) expressing our concerns.

3/ Infrastructure. The Federal Highway Administration issued a proposed rule this summer setting minimum standards for electric vehicle charging stations that some members of the coalition believe may restrict rather than expand training for electric vehicle technicians. Opportunity America submitted a [comment](#) urging the FHWA to reconsider the rule.

4/Apprenticeship. Opportunity America partnered with the Urban Institute to provide cost-free technical assistance to two coalition members, the ASE Education Foundation and the Association of Nutrition and Foodservice Professionals, launching registered youth apprenticeship programs. In addition to help registering their programs and structuring the on-the-job component, both organizations are receiving \$1,000 per-apprentice subsidies funded by the US Department of Labor. Please be in touch if you would like more information or cost-free help launching a youth apprenticeship program.