



Minnesota Employment Services Consortium |

Community Organizations at Work

May 13, 2022

Dear Chair Noor, Chair Pratt, and members of the Jobs Omnibus Bill Conference Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Employment Services Consortium (MESC), we offer feedback on the House and Senate’s omnibus bills that impact workforce programs.

As a group of nonprofit workforce development providers that collectively serve nearly 50,000 Minnesotans every year, we encourage a significant investment in preparing the workforce. Employers are desperate to hire. With an investment in training and supports, we believe unemployed and underemployed adults could upskill into open positions.

The House Workforce Bill (HF4355) offers several line items that would help address Minnesota’s workforce challenges. Specifically, we support:

- \$1 million for grants to organizations providing support services to new Americans to facilitate successful community integration and entry into the workforce
- \$5 million for youth technology competitive grants
- \$470,000 to establish an Office of New Americans

The Senate Jobs, Energy and Commerce bill (SF4091) underinvests in the workforce during a critical time for employers.

This omnibus bill could be stronger if it would:

- **Invest in training for high growth sectors** – in addition to technology, other industries such as construction, health care, manufacturing, and transportation could benefit from additional career pathway supports to prepare the workforce employers need.
- **Invest in training for youth and adults** – preparing youth for jobs of the future is important, but given the right training and supports, preparing adults for open positions would have an immediate impact on our workforce shortage.
- **Invest in the Nonprofit Resiliency and Recovery Fund** - support nonprofits in their efforts to both prepare the needed workforce and fuel a more equitable pandemic recovery.

We appreciate your hard work and efforts to compromise. We’re certain that strong workforce investments will produce a great return. Thank you in advance for considering our recommendations. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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MESC Organizations

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CAPi

Central MN Jobs & Training Services

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio - CLUES

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Hired

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International Institute of MN

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis

Lutheran Social Service of MN

Teamsters Service Bureau | Minnesota Job Partners

Project for Pride in Living (PPL)

Soar Career Solutions

Twin Cities RISE!

Urban League Twin Cities

Vietnamese Social Services of MN

CC: Members of the Conference Committee on SF4091