Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act

More than 900 organizations – including trade associations, professional societies and certification organizations – operating in more than 50 industries have come together to form the Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition.

The Coalition supports the bipartisan, bicameral <u>Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act</u> (H.R. 1151 / S. 756), which was reintroduced in February in the House and the Senate. The legislation would expand qualified expenses under 529 savings plans to include postsecondary training and credentialing, such as high-quality professional certifications and licenses. The bill would provide valuable tax-advantaged resources for families, students and workers—with or without a college degree—who pursue career growth, mid-career changes or alternate pathways. The bill's cost is <u>\$85 million over 10</u> <u>years</u>, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Senate Cosponsors in 118th Congress

Senate Champions (S. 756)

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS)

House Champions (H.R. 1151)

Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV)

House Cosponsors

Schmitt, Tuberville, Welch

<u>150 Cosponsors in the 118th Congress</u>: 90 Republicans & 60 Democrats <u>Ways & Means</u>: Reps. Carey, Horsford, Larson, Panetta

Sens. Britt, Collins, Duckworth, Ernst, Fetterman, Graham, Heinrich, Hickenlooper,

Hirono, Hyde-Smith, King, Kelly, Lankford, Manchin, Marshall, Moran, Rosen,

H.R. 1151 and S. 756 would empower Americans of any educational background, skill level or age, and would benefit all industries and professions that rely on employees with specialized and high-quality training or credentials. It would transform 529s from college savings plans to career savings plans; the bill would encourage more workers and families to save funds on a tax-preferred basis for career options that best suit the plan beneficiary.

What are 529 Savings Plans?

A 529 plan is a state-sponsored education savings vehicle that is exempt from federal taxes if funds are used to pay for qualified education expenses. These include college, graduate or professional degrees; programs from Title IV-accredited institutions; registered apprenticeships; up to \$10,000/year in K-12 tuition; and certain student loan repayments.

What 's the Issue? Training & Credentials are Ineligible for 529s

America's workforce is comprised mostly of middle-skill jobs that require more than a high school education but not a bachelor's degree, according to the National Skills Coalition. A differentiator amid the 21st century workforce is postsecondary credentialing—for workers with or without a two- or four-year degree.

Staff Contacts & More Information

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Workers and families could use 529 plans to help cover:

- Credential program tuition, including prep courses;
- Testing fees, including practice exams;
- Required books and equipment;
- Continuing education and credential renewal; and
- Other charges required to obtain and maintain a postsecondary credential.