



April 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Computing Technology Industry Association (“CompTIA”), the leading association for the global information technology (IT) industry, I write in strong support of the effort led by Representatives Bonamici and Levin to include \$15.1 billion in the next relief package to invest in our nation’s workforce development programs. With unemployment numbers increasing weekly, at no time in our history has there been such an urgent need for federal funding and smart government policies aimed at helping U.S. workers obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to get their next job and to spur our economy.

As noted in the April 9<sup>th</sup> letter spearheaded by Representatives Bonamici and Levin, there are important investments needed to upskill and reskill U.S. workers to meet the needs of a 21st century workforce. We strongly support the investments outlined by this letter including, but not limited to, \$2.5 billion for adult training activities like on-the-job training and apprenticeships; \$2.5 billion for State Dislocated Worker Grants; and \$2.5 billion for WIOA Youth Investment Activities. Collectively, these investments would help to usher in hands-on learning for students and workers, in addition to promoting virtual and online learning which, if done properly, can be superior to classroom learning.

Through federal funding for workforce programs, individuals from all backgrounds, including veterans, minorities and underserved communities, can gain the skills required for their next job, including through virtual training and real-world, task-driven virtual apprenticeships. And based on data collected from CompTIA’s Creating IT Futures

Foundation, given an opportunity, displaced workers can become job ready in as little as eight weeks.<sup>1</sup>

Before the current crisis, demand for emerging tech skills and experiences was already significant as employers across industries pursued digital transformation strategies. This need will only grow in the coming weeks, months and years as businesses become more reliant on technology in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, the U.S. core IT workforce is projected to grow at 1.6 times the national labor growth rate over the next decade, which translates to a projected need for at least 800,000 new IT workers in cybersecurity, data and computer science and software application development.<sup>2</sup>

With the challenge of containing COVID-19 still pressing, immediate efforts to secure the safety of our citizens are paramount. However, planning for what comes next must also be prioritized. We are hopeful you will consider these important investments in workforce programs as you determine the path forward for relief and stimulus packages.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. If you have any questions on this issue or others facing the information technology industry, please contact me at [crogers@comptia.org](mailto:crogers@comptia.org).

Sincerely,



Cinnamon Rogers  
Executive Vice President  
CompTIA

Cc: Representatives Bonamici, Levin, Blumenauer, Carson, Castro, Chu, Cicilline, Clarke, Courtney, Davis, DeFazio, DeGette, Dingell, Espaillat, Fitzpatrick, Foster, Gabbard, Garcia, Green, Grijalva, Hayes, Jackson Lee, Keating, Kilmer, Kirkpatrick, Kuster, Lamb, Langevin, Lowenthal, McGovern, McNerney, Holmes Norton, Omar, Payne, Pocan, Price, Raskin, Sablan, Shalala, Smith, Suozzi, Takano, Bennie Thompson, Mike Thompson, Titus, Tlaib, Trahan, Trone, Vargas, Velazquez, and Yarmuth

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<sup>1</sup> "Program Overview." Creating IT Futures. <https://www.creatingitfutures.org/it-ready/chicago-il>

<sup>2</sup> "Workforce and Learning Trends 2020." CompTIA. <https://www.comptia.org/content/research/it-workforce-learning-trends-analysis>