

December 12th, 2023

To the Honorable Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

The Veterans Education Project (VEP) fully supports the Workforce Pell Act. This critical piece of legislation addresses the growing gap between the skills job seekers possess and the demands of the modern workforce. VEP believes that this bipartisan initiative is a crucial step towards bridging this divide and ensuring that Americans are well-equipped for the challenges of the 21st-century economy. In recent years, there has been a noticeable shift in the hiring landscape, with employers increasingly valuing skills-based credentials over traditional degrees. Despite this, a significant number of potential workers face financial barriers to accessing the education and training required for success in high-demand fields. The Workforce Pell Act addresses this issue by extending the transformative power of Pell Grants to support students enrolled in high-quality, short-term education programs that lead to career advancement.

The importance of this legislation cannot be overstated, considering the approximately 10 million unfilled jobs across the country and the over six million unemployed individuals. The Workforce Pell Act aligns education opportunities with the pressing needs of the workforce, providing an avenue for students and workers to gain the skills necessary to fill these vacant positions. This not only benefits individuals seeking to enhance their employability but also contributes to the overall economic growth of our nation.



Stephen Patterson
Executive Director
Veterans Education Project