



September 21, 2016

Representative Robert Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of America Forward, I am writing in support of the introduction of the "Opening Doors for Youth Act of 2016" (H.R.__). America Forward commends your leadership in bringing real federal resources to assist communities in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates through summer youth employment and year-round employment opportunities. Our Coalition of organizations, who serve youth and implement effective programs across the country, applauds your drive to bring attention to the needs of opportunity youth and to lift up evidence-driven and community-based solutions that can ensure their desired educational attainment and employment achievements are realized.

America Forward is the nonpartisan policy initiative of national venture philanthropy fund New Profit. America Forward unites social innovators with policymakers to advance a public policy agenda that champions innovative and effective solutions to our country's most pressing social problems. This work is advanced through the America Forward Coalition, which is a network of more than 70 innovative, impact-oriented organizations that foster innovation, identify more efficient and effective solutions, reward results, and catalyze cross-sector partnerships. Our Coalition members are achieving measurable outcomes in more than 14,500 communities across the country every day, touching the lives of nearly 8 million Americans each year. We believe that innovative policy approaches can transform these local results into national change and propel all of America forward.

America Forward is supportive of the vision and goals of the legislation and the alignment of the opportunities and grants with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The focus on evidence-based practices and measurement of performance is important to ensure that the youth participants are accessing the resources they most need and that the programs are having a positive impact on key metrics of most significance. The recognition of the need for more than just education and employment training, but also access to supportive services, is critical to meeting these young people where they are and comprehensively addressing their needs long-term.

Thank you for your continued service and leadership. We look forward to working with you to ensure the advancement of efficient and effective policies in workforce and job training in benefit to youth and all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Truhe".

Nicole Truhe
Government Affairs Director, America Forward
1400 Eye Street, NW Ste 400
Washington, DC 20004