

August 20, 2018



AMERICAN COMMITMENT



The Honorable Kevin Brady (R-TX)
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady,

Thank you for your leadership in securing approval for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017, specifically the important step – initiated by the House – of allowing 529 savings to be tapped for K-12 tuition. With the creation of new jobs and record low unemployment, the nation is facing a growing labor shortage.

We agree with House leadership and the Ways and Means Committee that the time has arrived to address this labor shortage and the associated skills gap. For the first time in recent memory, the number of unemployed is outstripped by the number of jobs that remain open because U.S. employers cannot find Americans with the skills to fill these jobs.

We need to simultaneously address the skills gap affecting working-age adults and -- looking towards the future -- empower elementary and secondary students to find the best fit for their education to ensure they are prepared adequately for the future workforce.

The USA Workforce Tax Credit legislation (H.R. 5153, introduced by Rep. Lloyd Smucker) addresses these twin goals. **We write to request that the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee include the USA Workforce Tax Credit in the Committee's tax reform 2.0 proposal.**

This legislation (H.R. 5153) would create a national tax credit to encourage donations to apprenticeship and workforce training programs and K-12 scholarship organizations. Importantly, the bill makes sure religious liberty is protected, respects private school autonomy, and applies to taxpayers across the entire country – priorities that have been underscored in hundreds of meetings we have held with House Members and their staffs.

H.R. 5153 is backed by a coalition of almost 300 organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and key Evangelical and Orthodox Jewish groups, business groups, African-American and Latino community groups, and more than 30 labor unions. The coalition includes Ralph Reed's Faith and Freedom Coalition and Grover Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform.

H.R. 5153 has more than three-dozen co-sponsors representing diverse districts across the nation and representing the full spectrum of opinion in the GOP Conference, ranging from: the bill's sponsor, Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R- Pennsylvania), a member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus; to Rep. Peter King (R- New York), a pro-union suburban Republican from Long Island; to Rep. Jackie Walorski (R- Indiana); to Rep. Mark Meadows (R-North Carolina) and Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), the chairman and founder, respectively, of the House Freedom Caucus.

Thank you in advance for consideration of including H.R. 5153 within Tax 2.0.

Respectfully submitted, *[Signatories listed below and on the following pages]*

60 Plus Association
James L. Martin, Chairman and Founder
Saul Anuzis, President

Agudath Israel
Rabbi Abba Cohen, Vice President for Federal Affairs
and Washington Director and Counsel

American Business Defense Council
Dick Patten, President

American Commitment
Philip G. Kerpen, President

Americans for Tax Reform
Grover Norquist, President



American Association of Christian Schools
Jamison Coppola, Legislative Director

America's Scholarship Koneksi
Amy Luksza, Scholarship Director

The Ammonia Refrigeration Foundation
Lois Stirewalt O'Connor, Executive Director

Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization
Steve Yarbrough, Board of Directors

Arizona School Choice Trust
Shawna L.M. Bolick, Vice President, Development

Arkansas Information Parent Network
Virginia WaldenFord, Executive Director

Association of Christian Schools International
Thomas J. Cathey, EdD, Director for Legal Legislative Issues

BlakPAC
George T. Farrell, Chair

Bridging America's Gap
V. Brett Melvin, Executive Director

Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools
Bill O'Brien, Executive Director

California Catholic Conference
Raymond Burnell, Director of Education & Environmental Stewardship

Campaign for Liberty
Norman Singleton, President

Catholic Business Network of Washington D.C.
Justin Silvers, President

Center for Urban Renewal and Education (C.U.R.E.)
Rev. Derek McCoy, Executive Vice President

Center for Worker Freedom
Olivia Grady, Senior Fellow

Center of the American Experiment
Kim Crockett, Esq., Vice President, Senior Policy Fellow and General Counsel

Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund
Tami Clark, Executive Director

CEO America
Jim Saunders, President

Children's First Foundation
Larry Cirignano, D.C. Representative

Choose A School
Barbara Duncan, Ph.D., Vice President of Quality Schools

Christian Coalition of America
Jim Backlin, Legislative Director

Christian Schools International
Joel Westa, President/CEO

Coalition For A Strong America
Michael J. Bowen, CEO

The Coalition for Jewish Values
Rabbi Pesach Lerner, President

Connecticut Catholic Conference
Anne LaMonica, Associate Director for Education

Council for American Private Education (CAPE)
Michael Schuttloffel, Executive Director

Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund
Ed Martin, President

EdTaxCredit50 Coalition
Peter Murphy, Vice President for Policy

Educate. Advocate.
Kristie Sepulveda-Burchit, Executive Director

Education Liberty Fund
Paul Nugent, Director

Faith and Freedom Coalition
Patrick Purtill, Director of Legislative Affairs

Faith in the Future
Irene Horstmann Hannan, Chief Executive Officer

Florida Faith and Freedom Coalition
Jim Kallinger, President

Frontiers of Freedom
George Landrith, President

Foundation for Catholic Education
Judi McLane-Nield, Director of Development

Global Cold Chain Alliance
Lowell Randel, Vice President of Government & Legal Affairs

Hispanic American Construction Industry Association
Jorge Perez, Executive Director

Hispanic Leadership Fund
Mario H. Lopez, President

Independence Mission Schools
Brian McElwee, Board Chairman

Inner-City Scholarship Fund
Susan George, Executive Director

Invest in Education Coalition
Thomas W. Carroll, President

The Latino Coalition
Manuel A. Rosales, Board Secretary

Men and Women for a Representative Democracy
Gerrye Johnston, Founder/CEO



Michigan Association of Non-public Schools
Brian D. Broderick, Executive Director

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark
Dr. Margaret Dames, Superintendent for Catholic Schools



Michigan Catholic Conference
Paul A. Long, President and CEO

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Edward McFadden, Secretary for Communications



Montana Catholic Conference
Matt Brower, Executive Director

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston
Michael F. Acquilano, Board Member



Motorsports Safety Education Foundation
Tom Weisenbach, Executive Director

Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, NJ
Kim Chorba, Diirector



National Catholic Educational Association
Sr. Dale McDonald, Director of Public Policy

Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY
Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, Superintendent of Schools



National Grocers Association
Molly Pfaffenroth, Senior Manager, Government Relations

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY
Kathleen A. Razzetti, Assistant Superintendent for Public Policy, Government Programs, and Student Services



National Transportation Center
Tom Weisenbach, Business Development Officer

School Choice Arizona
Steve Yarbrough, Board of Directors



National Waste & Recycling Association
James T. Riley, Esq., VP, Federal Affairs & Deputy General Counsel

South Carolina Catholic Conference
Michael F. Acquilano, Director



New Jersey Catholic Conference
Dr. George V. Corwell, Diirector: Office of Education

South Dakota Christian School Association
Rev. Darren R. Olson, Executive Secretary



New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families
Kim Chorba, Diirector

Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops
Michael Barba, Associate Director of Public Policy



New York State Catholic Conference
Richard E. Barnes, Executive Director

Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.
C. Preston Noell III, President



New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents
Dr. Anthony Cook, Chairman

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
Mary Pat Donoghue, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education



New Yorker's Family Research Foundation
Jason J. McGuire, President

USA Workforce Coalition
Maureen Blum, Vice President for Federal Affairs



Partnership for Inner-City Education (Partnership Schools, NYC)
Cee Greene, Director of Stewardship

WI Council of Religious & Independent Schools
Sharon L. Schmeling, Executive Director



Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
Sean P. McAleer, MGA, Director of Education

Supporters added after 8/20/18 (as of 9/11/18)

Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Julio Fuentes, President and CEO



Kansas Chamber
Alan Cobb, President & CEO



Maryland CAPE
Rabbi Ariel Sadwin, President



Minnesota Catholic Conference
Shawn Peterson, Associate Director for Public Policy



NYS Coalition for Independent and Religious Schools)
James Cultrara, Co-Chairman



Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Alex Baloga, President and CEO



REACH Alliance
Otto V. Banks, Executive Director



Reaching America
Derrick Hollie, President



Reclaim New York Initiative
Bandon Muir, Executive Director



Rhode Island Families for School Choice
Sheila Konis, Director



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville
Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Archbishop



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York
Dr. Timothy McNiff, Associate Superintendent of Schools