

Corporate Sign-On Letter – Workforce Development in COVID Relief (Deadline Wed. July 29)

The coronavirus pandemic has driven unprecedented unemployment and a rapid and generational shift in the U.S. economy. With Congress turning its attention to providing additional relief related to the coronavirus impact, Autodesk and Workday have put together the corporate sign-on letter below raising the recent economic effects, highlighting the need for worker training and reskilling, and urging Congressional leaders to include support for workforce development in any forthcoming COVID-19 relief legislation. ***To add your company to the workforce corporate sign-on letter or with any questions, please contact Kelsey Moran (kelsey.moran@autodesk.com) or Natalie Mauney (natalie.mauney@workday.com). The deadline for adding is Wed. July 29 and please share.***

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

We applaud Congress's ongoing and bipartisan efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to interfere with business operations and wreak havoc on families, jobs, and the economy. We write to urge you to include support for workforce development in any forthcoming COVID-related relief bill.

Businesses around the country are struggling and millions of Americans are out of work. Many who remain employed are experiencing changes to their day-to-day work and transformations in their industries that would have seemed unimaginable before the pandemic. For example, remote digital collaboration is now a necessity and the trend toward businesses investing in new technologies and automation that was on-going before the pandemic is only accelerating. Workers across the economy now need to learn new skills for rapidly changing jobs, including digital literacy, to succeed in the new normal. With the digital transformation accelerating due to COVID-19 and so many experiencing job disruptions, we believe that additional federal investment in the long-term success of America's workforce is critical.

As you consider additional legislative action to respond to COVID-19, we urge you to include resources supporting workforce training that forward goals of:

- Providing additional resources for training and reskilling workers who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic to help them gain digital and additional job-based skills in growth industries, positioning them to rapidly reenter the workforce with higher earning potential as businesses begin to rehire again,
- Strengthening partnerships and tax incentives for industry, educators, and non-profit organizations to ensure that training is targeted toward in-demand digital and additional job-based skills as well as roles that meet business needs, and
- Investing in quality short-term training— including online training to allow for social distancing—in the key digital and emerging skills.

As companies, we are committed to helping workers thrive in the changing economic landscape. However, the scale of change is too large for industry to do this alone. Government investment is needed, now more than ever, to prepare the workforce for the economy of the future and we stand ready to work with you to build a strong and resilient economy.

Sincerely,