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April 24, 2013

Senator Michael Bennet  
458 Russell Senate Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Rob Portman  
448 Russell Senate Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Bennet and Portman:

Opportunity Nation, a bipartisan, cross-sector national campaign driven by organizations and individuals committed to expanding economic mobility and closing the opportunity gap in America, supports your bill, the Careers Through Responsive, Efficient, and Effective Retraining (CAREER) Act. This Act will improve the delivery of federal job training programs that help young people start on the path towards a career.

Opportunity Nation is a collaboration of more than 250 national non-profits, employers, educational institutions, faith-based and community organizations who together support, engage and reach more than 100 million Americans. Our coalition is committed to the notion that an individual's zip code at birth should not determine his or her destiny. We believe that targeted actions to provide greater opportunity for young Americans will pay off in long-term economic success for families, communities and the Nation.

In order to improve opportunity for 6.7 million young Americans who are currently out of school or out of work, we have to change the way we do business. We need to ensure maximum results for our investments. The CAREER Act supports initiatives that will help achieve that goal by providing flexibility to improve outcomes for youth; aligning job training with regional and State workforce needs; holding providers accountable for results; and maximizing taxpayer dollars. The CAREER Act is a reasonable, bipartisan proposal that will support State and local efforts to re-engage disconnected youth and put them back to work.

We must repair strong ladders of opportunity for all young adults who are willing to climb and work hard, and we thank you for your joint leadership on this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Edwards  
Executive Director