

Chamber Leads on Workforce Advancement Efforts

More than 40 million Americans have filed for unemployment since the coronavirus crisis began, and the U.S. Chamber is leading the charge to help them find new jobs.

Our CEO Tom Donohue serves on the [American Workforce Policy Board](#), co-chaired by Ivanka Trump, Advisor to the President, and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. Mr. Donohue participated in the group's fifth meeting held virtually last week. The board, created in early 2019, is charged with advising the administration on a workforce strategy for the nation and includes leaders from business, labor, education, and philanthropy. Given the massive job losses due to COVID-19, the board was convened to discuss and approve a [National Workforce Recovery Call-to-Action](#).

The recommendations, agreed to unanimously by the board, follow three goals:

- Expedite American workers' return to employment and upward mobility by investing in career pathways and implementing skills-based hiring practices
- Remove obstacles to the modernization of American education and training to accelerate reskilling and facilitate innovation in workforce development
- Build the technological infrastructure necessary for the future of work

The recommendations are aimed at both government and the private sector.

The Chamber has already taken important steps to advance the work described in the call to action – through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce [Foundation's Talent Pipeline Management initiative](#) – creating real career pathways for workers in more than 30 states, as well as the extensive work to build the data and technology infrastructure necessary to support a more equitable and functional talent marketplace for workers, learners, education providers, and employers.

The board acknowledged the Chamber Foundation's role in supporting the creation of Interoperable Learning Records (ILRs), a key deliverable outlined under the third goal. An ILR is a digital record of skills and competencies learned in school, on the job, or in the military that will help match workers' skills with employers' needs. Several members of the advisory board including IBM, Walmart, SAP, and Western Governors University are involved in ILR pilot projects, supported by the Chamber Foundation's work.

The Advisory Board had been scheduled to conclude this summer; however, the President is expected to announce an extension of the board for an additional year. The next full meeting is scheduled for June 26.

–Cheryl Oldham, Vice President of Education and Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation