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**The Honorable Tim Kaine**

United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 10, 2025

Dear Senator Kaine:

On behalf of NAF, I want to thank you for your leadership in championing the Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act of 2025 which supports federally funded workforce opportunities through career and technical education.

NAF is a national non-profit that brings schools and businesses together to transform the high school experience and better align education and workforce opportunities through career focused academies. Our academies are integrated into existing public high schools and put students – especially students who may lack access - on a path to achieving their full potential. Through integrating industry partners in our academy design and implementation, NAF ensures businesses have the skilled and diverse workforce pipeline they need to strengthen their local communities and to compete globally.

We are committed to ensuring educators, local education agencies, and workforce development boards work seamlessly together to support college and career readiness programs for our nation’s high school students. Given our 45 years of experience, we uniquely understand the need for a wide array of workforce programs and opportunities to pique a student’s interest in a potential career pathway. Short-term training programs that provide students with a necessary credential or critical experience that can jumpstart their career is one such way for students to reach their full potential. NAF supports the JOBS Act in providing students with the opportunity to gain training and/or credentials through Pell Grant funding. These programs can spur a student’s career interest and therefore is a critical component of building robust connections between education and workforce systems across the country.

As you and your colleagues continue to push for the broadening scope of Pell Grants, NAF also encourages the extension of Pell Grant eligibility to cover dual enrollment courses. Dual enrollment provides students with the chance to earn high school and college credits at the same time, reducing college tuition expenses and encouraging more students to pursue post-secondary education opportunities. Dual enrollment programs have been shown to be an effective tool, and students should be able to maintain their full 12 semesters of Pell Grant eligibility when they officially start their post-secondary experience.

NAF appreciates your leadership in introducing and continually championing the JOBS Act of 2025 and stands ready to assist in any way we can. Please feel free to reach out to Jennifer Pautz, Assistant Vice President of Policy & Advocacy, at jpautz@naf.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dughi
CEO | NAF