



July 21, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Burgess Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lucy McBath
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the Modernizing Access to Talents, Credentials, and Hiring (MATCH) Act of 2026

Dear Chairman Walberg, Ranking Member Scott, and Representatives Owens and McBath:

On behalf of Credential Engine, I write to express our organization's support for the Modernizing Access to Talents, Credentials, and Hiring (MATCH) Act of 2026 as amended. Credential Engine thanks Representatives Owens and McBath for your leadership on this critical issue, and Chair Walberg and Ranking Member Scott for your commitment to advancing it on a bipartisan basis at markup.

Credential Engine is a national nonprofit dedicated to making the credentialing ecosystem more transparent and understandable. Our work empowers students, workers, and employers to identify and compare the pathways, programs, and credentials that are best for them and most align with their learnings and career development needs. For nearly a decade we have partnered with federal agencies, states, and thousands of education and training providers to build the open data infrastructure that makes all this possible -- work that implicates over 1.85 million credentials offered by nearly 135,000 providers today.

Talent marketplaces and skills-based hiring are only able to meet their full potential if the underlying data used in these systems and related talent acquisition approaches can be understood, both by humans and machines, and trusted and reliably compared. Put more simply, a talent marketplace capable of matching workers to jobs based on skills is only as good as the data shaping these decisions.

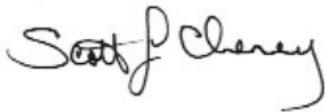
If credentials, competencies, and job requirements are described in different ways using different terminology by different systems, employers cannot reliably evaluate candidates and workers cannot reliably demonstrate what they know and are able to do. Structured, open, linked, interoperable, and durable (SOLID) data formats help to address this fundamental challenge and facilitates the translation of skills that exist on paper into something a talent marketplace and an employer can verify and act upon. Structured and transparent data is the very foundation on which talent marketplaces must operate and are therefore a critical determinant of their future success as envisioned in this legislation.

We are pleased to note the updated bill's transparency requirements strengthened by removing the "where relevant" qualifiers that appeared in earlier versions of the MATCH Act regarding interoperability and open data standards. As drafted, those qualifiers would have left it open to interpretation whether a given talent marketplace, credential registry, or learning and employment record needed to use data formatting approaches like SOLID. The important clarification afforded by removing this limitation will ensure that these systems are built on a SOLID foundation from the beginning to ensure future success. From our perspective, we believe that this is one of the most important features of the bill and applaud the removal in this updated version of the legislation.

We continue to see avenues for strengthening this legislation, while also clearly recognizing the importance of this critical step forward. We appreciate the Committee's continued work on the MATCH Act and wider efforts to foster the creation of talent marketplaces needed for the nation's future success. We reiterate our assertion that it is imperative that Congress and the nation fully embrace and adopt SOLID data formats so that we can make transparent the full credential and skills marketplace in the country for the benefit of learners, workers, employers, educators, policymakers, and the public at large.

Credential Engine stands ready to serve as a resource as the bill moves forward and urges all members of the House Education and the Workforce Committee to support this important legislation in the committee's markup and as it moves forward for further consideration in the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Cheney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Scott Cheney
President / CEO
Credential Engine