



March 12, 2024

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman
HELP Subcommittee on Employment
& Workplace Safety
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Braun
Ranking Member
HELP Subcommittee on Employment
& Workplace Safety
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Hickenlooper, Ranking Member Braun, and members of the Employment and Workplace Safety subcommittee,

On behalf of Autos Drive America's members, we appreciate the opportunity to submit the following comments on the subcommittee's hearing titled, "Youth Apprenticeships: Building Partnerships, Strengthening Career Pathways." Autos Drive America represents thirteen international automakers and battery manufacturers operating in the United States: BMW, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Panasonic, Subaru, Toyota, Volkswagen, and Volvo. Our members produce nearly half of all American-made vehicles annually, account for over half of new vehicle sales, and support 2.3 million American jobs.

Autos Drive America members offer critical workforce education programs that encourage students to pursue career and technical education while giving current employees opportunities to reskill and upskill their manufacturing competencies. While international automakers offer approximately 140 workforce development programs in the U.S. and 95 percent of automotive assembly operations offer onsite training facilities, the auto industry unfortunately continues to face a shortage of skilled workers. Attracting younger generations of Americans into the auto industry is key to the success and future of automakers in the United States.

Autos Drive America members have several programs that allow high school students to make important strides in developing a career in the auto industry and appreciate the subcommittee's attention to the importance of youth apprenticeships in America. These programs are a win-win for students and our members, providing critical skills and career opportunities for young people in their communities while building a critical talent pipeline to fill the skills gap in a high-demand, good-paying industry. Encouraging and promoting more opportunities to build these key partnerships throughout the United States will have a lasting impact on our economy and set tens of thousands of hardworking Americans on the path to a successful career.

BMW . Honda . Hyundai . Kia . Mazda . Mercedes-Benz . Mitsubishi . Nissan . Subaru . Toyota . Volkswagen . Volvo

As the subcommittee and Congress review policies that can assist employers' ability to operate successful workforce development programs, Autos Drive America encourages you to promote the continued partnerships between employers and educational institutions in their communities, eliminate unnecessary barriers, and incentivize additional efforts to invest in America's youth. I thank you for the consideration of our concerns and review of our comments and look forward to working with the subcommittee on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer M. Safavian". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jennifer M. Safavian
President and CEO