

Dear Mr. Trump:

I am an employee at a Chicago-based small business, the kind of American-owned and -operated business that drives the U.S. economy. We're proud of the growth and success our small business has had in the past four years and are looking forward to even stronger contributions to the economy for years to come.

In order for small businesses to drive strong economic growth, it is necessary to have a workforce that is both highly skilled and highly diverse. Multiple studies have shown that more diverse companies out-perform less diverse companies on their bottom lines. A 2015 study from McKinsey & Company showed that gender-diverse companies outperform non-diverse companies by 15 percent and ethnically diverse companies outperform non-diverse companies by an astounding 35 percent. Studies from MIT and the University of Illinois Chicago have found similar results. This kind of performance across every company in the United States would result in incredible economic growth.

The value of harnessing the power of everyone's intelligence, talents, and perspectives is clear. In order to recognize this value, though, we need to provide every student in the United States with a high-quality education, the kind of education that will give them the skills and knowledge necessary to join—or start—the companies that will fuel an innovative and growing economy. The best way to provide these educational opportunities for every young person, not only to the wealthy and elite, is to maintain and even strengthen Title I funding for public schools throughout the United States and to not implement any changes in terms of portability of Title I funding. The value of this investment in public education will be proven out as a generation of highly educated and skilled diverse young people graduate and enter the workforce.

If you would like your legacy to be a strong and growing U.S. economy, more thriving small business, and low unemployment, the best investment you can make is in improving public education for all students in the United States. I ask you to preserve and secure Title I funding to give all students the high-quality education we as a nation need to create a truly great America.

Sincerely,

Claire Podulka
Chicago, IL