

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

July 27, 2026

The Honorable Keith Sonderling
Acting Secretary of Labor
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Sonderling,

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by Alfred State College of Technology to the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Initiative. SUNY Alfred's proposal, "Curriculum to Career: Expanding the Healthcare Workforce in Rural Western New York," will directly addresses workforce shortages in nursing, radiology, and healthcare management that impair the quality of healthcare received by rural residents.

As Western New York's leading technical college, Alfred State is uniquely positioned to continue helping grow the region's workforce. This collaborative effort between Alfred State College, local hospitals, and workforce development agencies will result in an increased and improved pipeline of healthcare workers across New York's Appalachian Region. Alfred State will provide summer internships for students enrolled in healthcare majors, provide an increased number of clinical placements, and implement stackable degree pathways through micro-credential and certificate programs. The proposal will also serve current healthcare workers by providing on-the-job training, flexible course delivery, and tuition support to allow providers the opportunity to develop additional skills while working.

Quality healthcare is the bedrock for a healthy community, especially in rural areas. The Southern Tier, at the northern tip of Appalachia, continues to be one of the most economically distressed areas of the Northeast. This project offers an opportunity to reverse this trend by building on SUNY Alfred's existing technical curriculum.

I applaud Alfred State College of Technology for its foresight, and sincerely hope their application is met with your approval. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Grants Director at grants@schumer.senate.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator