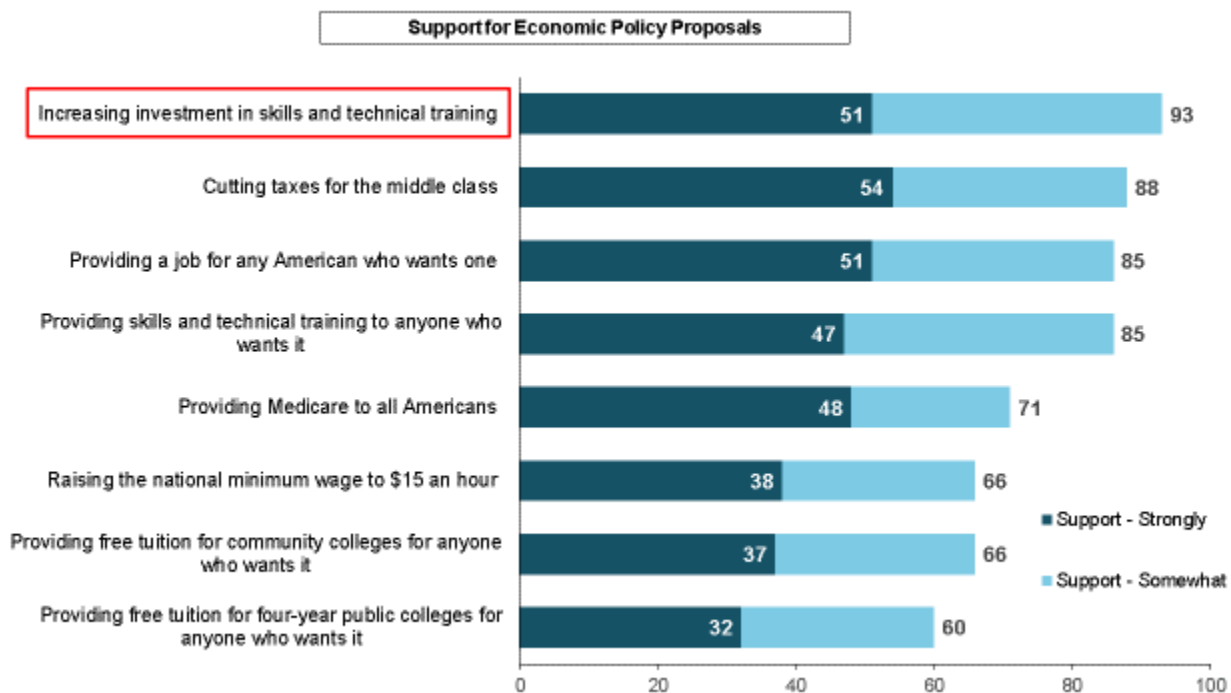**February 21, 2019**

TO: **Interested Parties**
FROM: **ALG Research**
RE: **Poll Finds Overwhelming Support for More Funding for Skills Training**

On behalf of the National Skills Coalition, ALG conducted a nationwide online survey of 1000 likely 2020 general election voters, January 22-27, 2019. The purpose of this memo is to review the key findings from the survey.

<u>**Key Findings**</u>

- **Voters overwhelmingly support increasing investment in skills training.** More than nine-out-of-ten voters (93%) support increasing investment in skills and technical training, with a majority of voters *strongly* supporting more investment.

- **Increasing investment in skills training was the most popular of eight economic proposals tested.** At 93% support, increasing investment in skills training was more popular than other popular economic policy proposals such as cutting taxes for the middle class (88%), providing Medicare to all Americans (71%), raising the minimum wage to $15 (66%) and free tuition for four-year public colleges (60%). More investment in skills training was the most popular proposal among Independents (93%) as well.

Support for Economic Policy Proposals

- **Support remains extremely high even when investment is framed as "government funding."** Noting that increased funding for skills training would come from the government does little to dampen support, with 85% of voters continuing to back it. This sentiment extends across party lines, with 90% of Democrats, 82% of Independents and 80% of Republicans in support.

- **African American voters are especially supportive.** Ninety percent of African American voters support more government funding for skills training, but support is very high among white voters (85%) and Latino voters as well (81%).

- **Supporting more investment in skills training helps candidates of both parties.** By a 50-point margin (59% more likely / 9% less likely), voters say they are more likely to support a candidate who supports increasing government funding for skills training. This positive impact extends across the political spectrum.

- **There is strong, bipartisan support for a range of proposals related to skills training.** At least 80% of voters support each of the eight skills training proposals tested in the poll. These proposals include providing tax incentives for employers who invest in skills training (90%), making federal financial aid to anyone seeking skills training (86%), and making it easier for those on government assistance to get skills training (85%). All eight proposals tested enjoyed broad support across party lines.

Support for Skills Training Proposals % Support				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Create closer links between community colleges and businesses to help community colleges train people for the jobs businesses are hiring for.	92	92	92	91
Provide tax incentives to employers who invest in skills training for their workers.	90	92	85	90
Help laid off workers find new jobs by providing skills retraining at no cost to any worker who loses their job due to automation.	89	94	93	82
Increase government funding in technical education and apprenticeships for high school students and young adults.	88	93	88	82
Make federal financial aid available to anyone seeking skills training, not just those seeking college degrees.	86	91	90	79
Invest in skills training programs at the same level that we invest in college.	86	90	88	81
Make it easier for people who receive government assistance like welfare or food stamps to get skills training, so they can find a family supporting job.	85	93	87	76
Increase government funding for support services to help people finish skills training programs, such as for career counseling, childcare and transportation assistance.	81	92	76	69