

U.S. Chamber CEO: Solving The Worker Shortage Is the Nation's Top Priority

COMMENTARY By Suzanne Clark June 30, 2021 4:00 am ET



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3. Solving the worker shortage crisis must be job No. 1. I hear it all day, every day from businesses of every size, region, and industry: A lack of available workers is holding back business growth, threatening our recovery and competitiveness. We need to fill 9.3 million open jobs today and prepare workers for the jobs of tomorrow. Here's how:

- Remove barriers standing in the way of people returning to work: End the \$300 federal unemployment supplement (26 states are doing this), expand access to childcare, and prioritize second-chance hiring for formerly incarcerated individuals who have paid their debt to society.
- Expand employer-led solutions, such as apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and innovative programs to equip people with skills for in-demand jobs.
- Welcome global talent through smart reforms coupled with border security. Doubling legal, employment-based immigration and the number of worker visas would bring a needed infusion of workers into our economy.