

July 6, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Please support passage of the Advanced Manufacturing Jobs in America Act (S. 3188/H.R. 5604)

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

As Congress continues to work on a bipartisan basis to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's economy and workforce, we respectfully urge you to support enactment of the Advanced Manufacturing Jobs in America Act (S. 3188/H.R. 5604).

Manufacturing is a critical component of American commerce, contributing \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy, or 11 percent of GDP, according to 2019 data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Advanced manufacturing utilizes technology R&D to enhance capacity and efficiency in the production of goods. Advanced manufacturing may include production activities that depend on automation, computation, software, sensing, and networking. Community and technical colleges across the country offer robust capabilities in advanced manufacturing workforce training.

Unfortunately, the U.S. has lost millions of manufacturing jobs over the last decade, and the industry has suffered badly amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary challenge facing businesses involved in advanced manufacturing as the nation prepares to return to the workplace is the growing gap between new jobs in advanced manufacturing and workers qualified with the unique skill sets to fill them.

The Advanced Manufacturing Jobs in America Act (S. 3188/H.R. 5604) directs the U.S. Department of Labor to initiate pilot projects involving local community colleges, state and tribal colleges, local boards, advanced manufacturers, and Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers, in order to facilitate advanced manufacturing education and training programs. These pilot projects will:

- Strengthen collaboration involving community colleges, MEP centers, and manufacturers;
- Target skills development in communities with expected growth in advanced manufacturing;
- Educate individuals about opportunities for career advancement within advanced manufacturing;
- Lead to an industry-recognized credential; and
- Prioritize training and hiring of displaced and unemployed adults of all ages.

We appreciate your consideration of the Advanced Manufacturing Jobs in America Act as a measure to enable community and technical colleges to reskill and upskill the advanced manufacturing workforce.

Sincerely,

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