

November 14, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: H.R. 3174/S. 1518, the Championing Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology Act

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in strong support of H.R. 3174/S. 1518, the Championing Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology (CHANCE in Tech) Act, and request the House of Representatives and Senate pass this important legislation during the 115th Congress.

As the nation's foremost technology organizations, we speak on behalf of many of the world's most innovative companies. These companies are creating jobs, spurring economic growth, and helping ensure the United States remains the most competitive economy in the world.

The CHANCE in Tech Act would make commonsense reforms to the registered apprenticeship program and generate job and economic growth. The proposal would create technology apprenticeships and help forge public-private partnerships to serve as intermediaries between employers participating in the registered apprenticeship program, industry, training partners, and government entities. Each intermediary would assess and train potential apprentices in coordination with local and regional workforce demands. The intermediaries would lessen the regulatory burden on participating employers by tracking success indicators and managing other reporting requirements. The proposal would also establish a program to recognize those high schools providing exemplary IT training and counseling. Collectively, the plan put forward would better align workforce upskilling with local and regional demands.

While today's economy is increasingly dependent on the technology industry to create jobs, the skills gap is slowing further growth. In 2016, the industry contributed more than \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy, employed more 7 million workers, and added more than 100,000 new jobs. However, more than 600,000 technology jobs went unfilled in Q4 2016, in large part due to the skills gap.¹ What is more, it is estimated that nearly 800,000 IT workers will retire between now and 2024, and almost half of technology business leaders believe the skills gap has grown over the past two years.²

¹ "Cyberstates 2017." CompTIA. March 2017. <http://cyberstates.org/#>

² "Assessing the IT Skills Gap." May 2017. <https://www.comptia.org/resources/assessing-the-it-skills-gap>

The CHANCE in Tech Act would help shrink the skills gap by revitalizing the registered apprenticeship program and providing students and workers with the hands-on, experiential learning needed to compete in today's economy. It is for these reasons that we support H.R. 3174/S. 1518, and urge the House of Representatives and Senate to pass this important legislation during the 115th Congress.

Respectfully,

ACT | The App Association
CompTIA
CALinnovates
Engine
Global Cyber Alliance
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Security Industry Association
Semiconductor Industry Association
Software & Information Industry Association
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

Cc: U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce; U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions