

July 6, 2021

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

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

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Republican Leader McConnell:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in strong support of S. 2227, the Championing Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology (CHANCE in Tech) Act, and urge the Senate to pass this important legislation during the 117th 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 Department of Labor's registered apprenticeship program, creating jobs 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. Collectively, the CHANCE in Tech would better align workforce upskilling with local and regional demands and provide an alternative pathway into the tech workforce for countless Americans.

Today's economy is increasingly dependent on the technology industry to generate economic growth and the skills gap is a significant hurdle. In 2020, the technology industry contributed nearly \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy and employed more than 12 million workers. However, there were also nearly 4 million tech job openings.<sup>1</sup> These findings, coupled with the recent calls by the White House to build a diverse and accessible talent pipeline to strengthen our nation's supply chains,<sup>2</sup> demonstrate the urgent need for Congress to work quickly to address this important matter.

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 S. 2227 and urge Senate to pass this critical legislation during the 117th Congress.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cyberstates.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/100-day-supply-chain-review-report.pdf>

Respectfully,

ACT | The App Association  
BSA | The Software Alliance  
CompTIA  
Developers Alliance  
Engine  
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)  
Internet Association  
Security Industry Association (SIA)  
SEMI  
TechNet  
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

Cc: U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions