



April 30, 2019

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the nation's leading state technology councils, we write today to express our strong support for H.R. 1733, the Championing Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology ("CHANCE in TECH") Act. The proposal would provide much needed reforms to the Department of Labor's registered apprenticeship program and help shrink the nation's skills gap by creating an apprenticeship program for tech occupations.

As the nation's foremost technology organizations, we speak on behalf of tens of thousands of entrepreneurs, businesses, and employees. Our membership spans the country, ranging in size from small startup organizations to some of the largest and most influential companies in the world. We are uniquely positioned to address any number of issues facing the technology industry.

The CHANCE in TECH Act would make commonsense reforms to the registered apprenticeship program and spur job and economic growth. The proposal would help create public-private partnerships to serve as intermediaries between employers participating in the registered apprenticeship program, industry and training partners, and government entities. Each intermediary would assess and train potential apprentices, and importantly, 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 forth would better align workforce upskilling with local and regional demands.

Today's economy is increasingly dependent on the technology industry to create jobs and drive economic growth. In 2018 alone, the industry contributed nearly \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy, employed almost 12 million workers, and added more than 260,000 new jobs. Even more impressive, the median wage for a tech worker was \$81,900, which was nearly double the median wage of \$42,700 of the U.S. labor force.<sup>1</sup>

However, the industry's growth is being stymied by a shortage of the skilled workers it needs. There were 3.7 million postings for tech occupations during 2018, many of which were in emerging tech areas. These postings are the result of a growing skills gap. Each of these jobs represents untapped potential for prosperity –whether in the home or our economy. At a time when the technology industry is quickly becoming our nation's economic driver, and our competitors abroad are generating new ideas and cutting-edge technologies, it is critical that our nation's workforce programs are equipping students and workers with the skillsets today's economy demands.

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<sup>1</sup> "Cyberstates 2019." CompTIA. April 2019. <http://cyberstates.org/#>

It is for these reasons that we are happy to support H.R. 1733, the CHANGE in TECH Act, and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

**Alabama**

Tech Birmingham

**Arizona**

Arizona Technology Council (AZTC)

**California**

California Technology Council (CTC)

Tech San Diego

**Colorado**

Colorado Technology Association (CTA)

**Connecticut**

Connecticut Technology Council (CTC)

**Florida**

Palm Beach Tech Association

**Georgia**

Technology Association of Georgia (TAG)

**Idaho**

Idaho Tech Council (ITC)

**Illinois**

Illinois Technology Association (ITA)

**Iowa**

Technology Association of Iowa (TAI)

**Kentucky**

Technology Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK)

**Missouri**

KC Tech Council

**Massachusetts**

Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council (MassTLC)

**Maryland**

Maryland Tech Council (MTC)

**Minnesota**

Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)

**New Hampshire**

New Hampshire High Tech Council (NHHTC)

**New Jersey**

New Jersey Tech Council (NJTC)

**New York**

New York Tech Alliance

**New Mexico**

New Mexico Technology Council (NMTC)

**North Carolina**

North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA)

**North Dakota**

Technology Association of North Dakota

**Ohio**

OHTec

**Oregon**

Technology Association of Oregon (TAO)

**Pennsylvania**

Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies (PACT)

Pittsburgh Technology Council

**Tennessee**

Nashville Technology Council

**Texas**

Tech Titans

**Utah**

Utah Technology Council

**Vermont**

Vermont Technology Alliance

**Washington**

Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA)

**Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Technology Council (WTC)

Please contact Jim Miner ([Jim.Miner@mail.house](mailto:Jim.Miner@mail.house)) in Rep. Moulton's (D-MA) or Ben Bruns ([Ben.Bruns@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ben.Bruns@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Herrera Beutler's (R-WA) offices with questions.