



The Workforce-Ready Educate America Act

Need for legislation:

Many of the fastest-growing industries are unable to find employees with sufficient skills to meet their needs. At the same time, many community college, college, and university graduates remain unemployed because they lack the technical skills needed for the majority of existing job opportunities.

The Workforce-Ready Educate America Act:

The Workforce-Ready Educate America Act would encourage partnerships between employers and educational institutions by providing employers with a \$1,000 tax credit per student participating in a qualified technical training and skills partnering program. The total credit amount is capped at \$3,000 per year.

Qualified partnering programs:

- Community College and Career Training Grants awarded under the Trade Act of 1974
- Technical Skills Training Grants awarded under the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act
- Co-op programs under the Higher Education Act
- Any other program approved by the Secretary of Education or the Secretary of Labor

There is a “skills gap” in the United States:

Many of America’s fastest growing industries, like advanced manufacturing and clean energy, require a highly-skilled workforce. However, despite the fact that the unemployment rate in the United States remains far too high at 8.1 percent, these industries are struggling to find workers that possess the technical training and skills to meet their needs. In order to get Americans back to work, this skill-gap must be closed.

Increasing global competition:

Already, foreign countries are investing vast resources into training their students to be job-ready for the 21st century workforce. The U.S. must make these investments as well, or risk falling behind.

If our nation wants to maintain its status atop the increasingly globalizing economy, and reverse its trade deficit with countries like China, it must invest in the world’s fastest-growing industries and ensure that American companies in these industries have the workforce they need to compete in the international marketplace.