

May 1, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
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 Kevin McCarthy  
Republican 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. 1733/S. 777, the Championing Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, and Republican Leader McCarthy:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in strong support of H.R. 1733/S. 777, the Championing Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology (CHANCE in Tech) Act, and urge the House of Representatives and Senate to pass this important legislation during the 116<sup>th</sup> 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 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 2018, the industry contributed nearly \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy, employed more than 11 million workers, and added more than 260,000 new jobs. However, there were nearly 4 million job openings in this arena, nearly 400,000 of which were in emerging technology areas, in large part due to the skills gap.<sup>1</sup> What is more, it is estimated that

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<sup>1</sup> "Cyberstates 2019." CompTIA. March 2019. <https://www.cyberstates.org/>

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.<sup>2</sup>

The CHANCE in Tech Act would help shrink the skills gap by revitalizing the registered apprenticeship program and provide 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. 1733/S. 777 and urge the House of Representatives and Senate to pass this important legislation during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Respectfully,

ACT | The App Association  
BSA | The Software Alliance  
CALinnovates  
CompTIA  
Developers Alliance  
Engine  
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)  
Security Industry Association (SIA)  
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)  
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)  
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)  
Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA)

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

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