

THE
NEW ENGLAND
COUNCIL

September 15, 2017

New England Congressional Delegation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 3174, CHANCE in TECH Act

To the New England Members of the House of Representatives:

Here in New England, we are very proud of our region's thriving innovation economy. However, we hear time and again that one of the biggest challenges for employers in the innovation sector—and particularly in the information technology industry—is the skills gap. Simply put, there are not enough candidates with the necessary skills and training to fill open positions and support continued growth. Our region is fortunate to be home to a variety of institutions of higher learning, from community colleges to research universities, and everything in between. But as employers in the technology sector will tell you, the best candidates for employment are those who possess not only classroom education, but also hands-on, real world experience.

We write today on behalf of the New England Council's membership—which includes a variety of technology employers as well as educational institutions—to respectfully request your support for H.R. 3174, the Championing Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology (CHANCE in TECH) Act. This legislation was introduced by your colleague, Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), in July 2017, and has bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. The CHANCE in TECH Act seeks to address the growing skills gap in the technology sector through expanding and investing in technology apprenticeship programs. This legislation would create public-private partnerships to serve as intermediaries between employers participating in registered apprenticeship programs, industry and training partners, and government entities. Under this proposal, each intermediary would be responsible for assessing and training potential apprentices, minimizing the burden on participating employers by tracking success indicators and managing other reporting requirements.

The New England Council believes that this legislation will help to better align workforce training with local and regional demands, and that many of our members would welcome the opportunity to participate in such apprenticeship programs. In 2016 alone, the technology sector contributed more than \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy, employed more than seven million workers, and added more than 100,000 new jobs. In order to sustain this growth, we must ensure that employers in this vital sector have access to a highly skilled workforce, and The New England Council believes that the CHANCE in TECH Act would be tremendously helpful in achieving that goal.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (617) 365-2647 or ehesig@newenglandcouncil.com.

Sincerely,



Emily J. Heisig
Senior Vice President, Federal Affairs

The New England Council

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