



REPUBLICAN AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

- My amendment in the nature of a substitute would reauthorize for 5 years the TAA programs for workers, firms and farmers, as well as reform and modernize the program.
- My amendment restructures the program from a predominantly income support program that offers training into a job retraining program that improves access to more flexible education/training and continues to provide income support, health care, and other benefits.
- With respect to training, my amendment would provide greater individual choice and more flexible access to training:
 - \$8000 New Economy Scholarship providing up to four years of education and training, available even if a worker returns to work (current law is generally two years)
 - Allowing workers to choose from an improved menu of training options, including on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs
 - A TAA participant may combine full-time work with either full-time or part-time training, or combine part-time work with either full-time or part-time training
 - A TAA participant may begin training prior to layoff (not available today) or focus on a job search sooner while receiving income support without also having to be in training or to obtain a training waiver (as is required today).
- My amendment would authorize funds within TAA program to enhance the capacity of training providers, primarily community colleges, to provide effective training programs to trade-impacted workers.
- My amendment would provide transitional benefits to allow trade-affected workers to “earn and learn” through combined enrollment in the Workforce Incentive Act (WIA), providing career counseling, assessment, and job placement services through One-Stop Centers.
- The amendment would maintain the health coverage tax credit as a permanent program and would increase the premium coverage from 65% under current law to 75%.

- The amendment maintains the current level of state funding for training because currently, nearly \$300 million is unused. The amendment also encourages better allocation of current training funding for the States.
- The amendment would convert the existing wage insurance pilot program for older workers into a transitional wage supplement available to all TAA participants (regardless of age) who become reemployed at low wages (defined as up to minimum wage plus \$2.40), and allow such workers to also obtain the Health Coverage Tax Credit and TAA training.
- The amendment would increase the annual authorized funding for the TAA for Firms program.
- The amendment would require indicators of performance accountability to evaluate the performance of the TAA for workers and firms programs and their results for participants.
- In provisions affecting the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, the amendment does two things. First it would allow States to apply for cost-neutral waivers of current program rules to operate wage insurance and other demonstration programs designed to better assist unemployed workers in returning to work. Second, it would expand the current Treasury Offset Program to improve the collection of unemployment overpayments and delinquent employer contributions through garnishment of Federal income tax refunds. These changes would provide additional State flexibility to promote work as well as better ensure UI program integrity.
- The amendment creates a new trade-related category for qualification under the New Markets Tax Credit. Businesses and communities experiencing adverse economic effects due to international trade would now qualify for an additional \$500 million of New Markets Tax Credits. These tax credits would bring significant amounts of private capital into these economically disadvantaged areas.