

The TAA for Automation Act

Introduced by Senators Joe Donnelly, Gary Peters, and Kirsten Gillibrand

The Problem

Manufacturing employment has been on a downward trend since it peaked at nearly 20 million American workers in 1979. Today, domestic manufacturing supports only 12 million jobs. International trade has certainly contributed to employment declines, but the larger factor has been technology and automation. A recent [study](#) suggests as much as 85% of manufacturing job losses were due to automation, while another [report](#) estimates that as many as 73 million U.S. jobs – beyond just manufacturing - could be lost to automation by 2030.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program already exists for workers who lose jobs due to trade with foreign countries, but this important program does not assist the larger group of workers who lose jobs due to automation and technological change.

Solution

The TAA for Automation Act would extend TAA benefits, such as job training and reemployment services, to workers who lose jobs due to automation. Providing these benefits and services to technology-related job losses would help the American workforce more quickly adapt to the shifting economic landscape.

Bill Summary

- **Applies TAA program to Automation Job Losses.** The *TAA for Automation Act* would make TAA benefits available to workers whose jobs are eliminated through automation.
- **Forms Independent Advisory Commission on Labor Automation.** The *TAA for Automation Act* establishes an Advisory Commission to advise DOL on occupations at risk of elimination due to automation. The Commission must also produce an annual report and foster collaboration with state workforce agencies.

Support

- AFL-CIO
- UAW
- USW
- Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
- Andrew Stettner, Senior Fellow, the Century Foundation