

Reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance Before It Expires on December 31, 2014

From: The Honorable Adam Smith
Sent By: Mina.Garcia@mail.house.gov
Bill: H.R. 4163
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2014

Dear Colleague,

We write to draw to your attention to five stories that illustrate the importance of reauthorizing the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. TAA provides financial support and re-employment training for workers whose jobs are lost due to trade. It also provides assistance to U.S. companies that have been injured by imports so they can continue to remain competitive and not resort to mass lay-offs or closures. Funding for service workers expired at the end of 2013. Funding for the remainder of the program – which supports manufacturing workers, farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and firms – will expire on December 31 unless we act to renew it.

In 2013, 100,000 workers qualified for TAA and the results prove the program's success. More than 75% of workers who completed the program found jobs within six months, and of those, 90% were still employed a year later. More than 75% of workers who completed training in 2013 received a degree or industry-recognized credential.

Here are five TAA success stories:

- A 74 year-old Seattle die forging firm experienced trade impact and entered the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms program (TAAF) in the mid 2000's. With the assistance of the Northwest Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (NWTAAAC), the firm implemented a strategy of adopting certain innovations to develop capabilities in advance of competitors worldwide. NWTAAAC assisted the firm in three ways that relied heavily on outside expertise: implementation of a data management system; commercialization of a new alloy; and a revision of the Firm's website. Two years after completing TAAF, the Firm has increased employment by 11% and sales by 141%.
- Rodney Cox worked for 13 years on machinery, most recently at a local hospital in rural Oregon. He was laid off in September 2010 and could not find another job. With only a GED,

he realized he would need more education to make the wage he had earned as a millwright. Working with a TAA case manager, he opted to attend a community college that offered an Associate's degree in Biomedics. His TAA benefits allowed him to live, temporarily, near the training facility 177 miles away from his home (and family). Rodney earned his degree and accepted a position as a Bio-Medical Equipment Technician. He is earning a wage higher than what he earned when he was a millwright. Of TAA, Rodney said, "Things couldn't have worked out better for me. My case managers helped me every step of the way. I was hired two days after I moved back home with my family."

- Kim Franklin is a single mother with two children. She worked for a manufacturing company. When she was laid off, she could not find a similar job. She realized she needed to consider a new career and to get new skills. Through TAA, she completed Medical Assistance training. She is now employed as a medical assistant at a health clinic in her community.
- Juan Bustamante worked as a machine operator in California for over 11 years making aluminum rims for cars. When the nearby car facility moved operations out of the country, Juan – and 300 of his colleagues – lost their jobs. Through TAA, Juan was able to obtain remedial education in English, Math, and Speech at the Los Angeles Valley College Job Training Center. After completing the coursework, Juan qualified for the Transportation Metro Bus Operator Bridge Training Program. After completing that program, he received a position with LA Metro and has full benefits.
- Judith Fischer worked for a publishing firm in New York and lost her job. Through TAA, she explored career options and decided to pursue occupational therapy, concentrating on the psychological effects of diminished quality of life issues. She earned an Associate's Degree and received a job as a Community Rehabilitation Instructor and Case Manager, working with the developmentally disabled. Judith plans to pursue a Master of Science in Social Work. Of her new career, Judith said that it is "rewarding in every way, especially being able to connect with these children and I feel all the love they have to give."

These examples demonstrate that TAA helps workers find new jobs and firms stay in business when they face new competition from abroad. We urge you to extend the program before it expires on December 31.

/s/
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Member of Congress

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/s/
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