

S. 1847

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2081) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2), and inserting the following:

“(1) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

“(2) \$77,500,000 for fiscal year 2009.

“(3) \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

“(4) \$92,500,000 for fiscal year 2011.

“(5) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.”.

(b) REPEAL OF QUORUM REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.—Section 4(d) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2053(d)) is amended by striking “, but three” and all that follows through “to decline to two”.

(c) REDUCED PERIOD OF NOTICE TO MANUFACTURERS AND PRIVATE LABELERS WITH RESPECT TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Section 6(b)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2055(b)(1)) is amended by striking “not less than 30 days” and inserting “not fewer than 10 days”.

(d) EXPEDITION OF RELEASE OF INFORMATION IN CASE OF NONCOOPERATION BY MANUFACTURER OR PRIVATE LABELER.—Section 6(b) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2055(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection and paragraphs (5) and (6) of subsection (a), if the Commission makes an affirmative determination under subparagraph (B) with respect to information obtained under this Act pertaining to a consumer product of a manufacturer or private labeler, the Commission may immediately disclose such information to the public.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 1848. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to address the impact of globalization, to reauthorize trade adjustment assistance, to extend trade adjustment assistance to service workers, communities, firms, and farmers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today, I am proud to join with my good friend and colleague Senator SNOWE to introduce the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2007. This legislation would invest in America's workers and firms, farmer, and communities. It would help them to compete in the global marketplace.

The open trade system that has evolved over the past 50 years has created new markets for American ingenuity. It has delivered more affordable goods to American consumers. In Montana alone, trade supports nearly one in five jobs.

But for some Americans, trade-related economic change has not always been smooth. In 2005, the Owens and Hurst sawmill in Eureka, Mt., closed its doors. That mill fell victim to an onslaught of unfairly dumped and subsidized Canadian lumber. Jerry Ross, a

supervisor at the mill, lost the job that she had held for over a decade.

Jerry's prospects for reemployment looked dim. Luckily for Jerry, she qualified for Trade Adjustment Assistance, or TAA. With a diligent, caring job service caseworker by her side, Jerry charted a new course in life.

Jerry has been training intensively the Building Trades program at the Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Mt. She is also taking accounting coursework. When she finishes her training in December, she will be qualified as a construction superintendent. She hopes to start her own business.

Trade Adjustment Assistance helps tens of thousands of American workers like Jerry retrain for and fill jobs, right here at home. But the program is set to expire on September 30. It is up to this Congress to reauthorize and expand the program.

I have consulted closely with workers in Montana. I have sought advice from not just Montana's Department of Labor I have also consulted with officials from Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. I have sat down with unions, businesses, economists, and other experts.

Everyone agrees. TAA is a lifeline to American workers reentering an increasingly global labor market.

But for all the good that Trade Adjustment Assistance does, the current program is a complicated maze of hurdles and exceptions. For instance, workers can qualify for benefits if their jobs move offshore to Canada, Mexico, or another free trade agreement partner. But they will not qualify if their jobs move to China or India. Trade-displaced manufacturing workers can qualify for TAA if they lose their jobs. But accountants or any other service providers cannot. Workers can qualify for wage insurance, but only if they give up their right to retraining.

It does not have to be this way. The Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act authorizes a more fair, flexible, and relevant program.

Today's TAA overlooks the 80 percent of America's workforce employed in the services sector. Tens of thousands of workers who applied for TAA last year were shut out, simply because current law covers workers who produce “an article.” This technicality is a holdover from a different era. That was an era when only the manufacturing sector experienced strong foreign competition. We must extend the same protections to services sector workers.

Equally confounding is why workers whose firms move to Canada deserve any less protection than workers whose firms move to India. Globalization does not adhere to any trade agreement. My bill will end this discrimination, by covering any workers whose jobs move offshore, regardless of whether our nations have a trade agreement in force.

Losing health care coverage can be nearly as devastating as losing a job.

In 2002, Congress passed legislation to provide TAA-certified workers and certain retirees with an advanceable, refundable healthcare tax credit to cover 65 percent of their insurance premiums. But few have used this credit to replace a portion of their former employer's contribution to their health care premiums. Since folks who are out of work cannot afford to pay more for health coverage, that means most are going without. Our bill would increase the Government share of participants' premiums to 85 percent. That could give workers a real shot at keeping their healthcare coverage. Our bill also would fix the glitches that have made it difficult for workers to access this tax credit.

Our bill would also ensure that States have enough funds to pay for the 2 years of training to which TAA-certified workers are entitled. Today, the law caps the amount of available funds. That leads some States either to run out of or to ration training funds. The Baucus-Snowe bill would double the cap on training funds. That would ensure that all workers, including newly eligible ones, get training. Our bill also includes a trigger to automatically raise the cap to respond to unanticipated training demands.

Our bill also would make important improvements to the pilot wage insurance program that Congress created in 2002. Wage insurance helps older workers supplement lost wages when they get a new job. While older workers suffer worse wage loss, they are certainly not alone. Our bill would allow younger workers to participate in the pilot program. It also would eliminate the requirement that workers forfeit training if they opt for wage insurance. Instead, our bill would allow workers to choose what income assistance is right for them. They could choose this assistance either with training, without training, or after successfully completing training. Wage insurance should supplement, not supplant, TAA benefits.

Our bill also would make important changes in the Commerce Department's TAA for firms program. This program helps workers and employers avoid painful layoffs in the first place. TAA for firms gives small businesses the technical assistance that they need to compete in the global economy. But the program runs a substantial backlog of approved but unfunded adjustment projects for participating firms. Our bill would extend coverage to services firms and triples funding to \$50 million annually.

Likewise, our bill would improve the Department of Agriculture's TAA for Farmers program. It would ease the overly strict eligibility criteria that have kept many farmers and fishermen legitimately affected by trade from receiving assistance.

But we can do more than that. Many communities in which workers, firms, or farmers have been certified for TAA are struggling to redefine their place in

the global market. This bill would create a new TAA for Communities program to help communities uniquely challenged by trade to plan for the future and to access grant funding to implement that future.

Jerry Ross faced long odds when she lost her job. But because of Trade Adjustment Assistance, she has a bright career ahead of her. Jerry believes in TAA. She traveled all the way to Washington, DC to urge its renewal and improvement at a Finance Committee hearing in June. I look forward to working with my Colleagues on the Finance Committee and in this chamber to ensure that this Congress does not disappoint Jerry and the tens of thousands of American workers just like her.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as we know, this administration has sought closer trade ties to a growing number of nations throughout the world. It asked the last Congress to consider four free trade agreements, and is currently negotiating at least that number of new agreements, in addition to the Doha round of the World Trade Organization. Yet, in its march to lower our tariffs on imported goods, we must be sure we are not selling our domestic businesses and their works short or worse still—out.

Last year saw a record U.S. trade deficit of \$764 billion with the rest of the world. This includes bilateral imbalances with each of China, the European Union, and Japan. These are the latest figures demonstrating a steady slide of U.S. producers' market share in both the domestic and global markets.

One of the most troubling features of the decline of America's trade profile is the dramatic reduction in the number of manufacturing jobs in recent years. Since 2000, America has lost approximately 3 million, or 17 percent of its manufacturing jobs. Maine has lost over 21,000 jobs, representing over 26 percent of our manufacturing workforce. Other States have also found it difficult to retain these high-wage, high-benefit jobs as manufacturing operations move overseas and our demand for foreign-made goods surges.

Unlike job losses due to technological advances, which are the initiative of private enterprise, trade liberalization that sacrifices foundational domestic industries is the chosen policy of government. We therefore have an obligation to ensure that the costs are not borne by these most vulnerable workers alone.

That is why Senator BAUCUS and I—along with Senators WYDEN, COLEMAN, and STABENOW—are today introducing the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2007, which will reauthorize and expand the TAA program to cover new groups of Americans disfranchised by trade liberalization, as I had proposed in previous Congresses.

First among these are service workers and firms. While TAA currently aids U.S. citizens who lost their manu-

facturing jobs to trade, it fails to address the growing problem of those finding themselves unemployed as a result of foreign outsourcing, also known as offshoring. It is already bad enough that Americans who had careers in the service sector—which proponents of free trade argue should benefit from trade liberalization—are finding themselves out of work. But it is simply Kafkaesque that such service workers, now unemployed due to policies that were supposed to benefit them, would not be eligible for aid under TAA. That is why the legislation we are proposing today critically extends TAA to cover service workers and firms.

It is similarly illogical for workers to be excluded from the TAA program simply because they lost their job due to multilateral trade liberalization carried out under the auspices of the World Trade Organization, as opposed to a bilateral trade agreement, such as a free trade agreement. Yet, thousands of workers remain ineligible for TAA benefits under current law because they happened to lose their job to trade competition from a WTO member such as China or India rather than an FTA partner country. Accordingly, our legislation extends TAA to cover Americans who have been adversely affected by trade liberalization with WTO member, such as China, who are often the worst offenders of international trade rules.

Of critical importance to Maine and other coastal States is TAA's failure to cover fishermen who have suffered from the adverse effects of trade liberalization. U.S. fishermen have seen their livelihoods dissolve due to the reduction of duties on foreign fish and seafood imports. Yet, TAA benefits remain unavailable to these hard-working Americans under the current program. That is why I am pleased to co-sponsor this legislation which will make such fisherman eligible for TAA.

An additional concern with the present TAA program is its failure to address the inability of displaced workers in communities that have few jobs to offer. In small towns, including many in Maine, where the livelihood of the local economy often depends on one industry, one plant, or one company that is suffering under trade liberalization, the closure of that business is sure to cause economic ruin and devastation of individual lives.

Accordingly, the legislation we are introducing today would create a program to address economic dislocation in entire communities negatively affected by international trade and provide readjustment assistance to such communities. As we approach the expiry of authorization for both the TAA program and trade promotion authority, I view inclusion of relief for trade-affected communities as a necessary component of any comprehensive trade package.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1852. A bill to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving of each year as "Native American Heritage Day" in honor of the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that would designate the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day.

I believe that it is well known to most Members of this body that the original inhabitants of the lands that now constitute the U.S.—the aboriginal, indigenous, native people of America—occupied and exercised sovereignty over more than 550 million acres of land prior to the first European contact.

In the early days of our history, well before our Nation was formed, the native people fought alongside our soldiers in the Revolutionary War. The Indian tribes enabled the survival of General George Washington and his troops during the harsh winter at Valley Forge by providing food to the troops.

A few years later, as our Founding Fathers were engaged in the challenge of forming a new Nation, they drew upon the democratic model of government that they learned from the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. There they found the well-institutionalized practice of the fundamental principles of freedom of speech and a system of governmental checks and balances provided through the separation of governmental powers.

In our early days as a Nation, we entered into treaties with Native Americans pursuant to the provisions of the U.S. Constitution that recognize them as sovereigns. But later, we abandoned the path of an honorable course of dealings, and turned to war. Thousands lost their lives through these battles and horrific massacres. The native population everywhere was decimated.

Forced marches to relocate the native people from their traditional homelands to areas west of the Mississippi in the dead of winter cost thousands of more lives. Few Americans know that there was not one Trail of Tears, but many.

The Treaties could have signaled a return to a course of honorable dealings with the native people had the U.S. not proceeded to break provisions in every single one of the treaties that were ratified by the U.S. Senate.

Amazingly, notwithstanding these appalling deeds, the native people of the U.S. have always been and continue to be staunchly patriotic and loyal to this country. They have volunteered to serve in the defense of our nation in every military action and war in which we have been engaged, and on a per capita basis, more Native Americans have put themselves in harm's way and given their lives to protect the U.S. than any other group of Americans. They have made the greatest sacrifice, but their contributions do not end there.