

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to provide subsidized employment for unemployed, low-income adults, provide summer employment and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth, and carry out work-related and educational strategies and activities of demonstrated effectiveness, and for other purposes.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require transparency in the operation of American Health Benefit Exchanges.

S. 1719

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. 1798

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from

Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1798, a bill to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not counted as full-time employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1846

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1846, a bill to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 1848

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to amend section 1303(b)(3) of Public Law 111-148 concerning the notice requirements regarding the extent of health plan coverage of abortion and abortion premium surcharges.

S. 1881

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1881, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1881, *supra*.

S. RES. 317

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 317, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the continuing relationship between the United States and Georgia.

AMENDMENT NO. 2603

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2603 intended to be proposed to S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2608

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2608 intended to be proposed to S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2613

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2613 intended to be proposed to S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2626

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2626 intended to be proposed to S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1900. A bill to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, 52 years ago, in 1962, President John Kennedy signed the Trade Expansion Act into law. At the signing he spoke about the importance of trade to the United States and its partners abroad, on how it helps secure our preeminence in a global economy.

Here is what he said:

We now have the means to make certain that we build our strength together and that we can maintain this preeminence.

His words still ring true today. International trade is a cornerstone of our economy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, my friend from Montana is absolutely right. International trade is crucial to America's economy. Last year exports supported 9.8 million American jobs, including 25 percent of all manufacturing jobs.

Jobs created through trade are good jobs. On average, U.S. plants that export overseas pay their workers up to 18 percent more than nonexporting plants. They increase employment 2 to 4 percent faster than nonexporting plants. But we can do even better.

More than 95 percent of the world's population and 80 percent of the world's purchasing power is outside of the United States. To succeed in today's world, our farmers, ranchers, and job creators must be able to fairly access the world market.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I hope everyone listened to my good friend's words. He made very important points about statistics that I think most Americans are unaware of, and if they would think about it more, they would realize the importance of trade.

We export so much more now. Exporting is such a large percent of our economy and offers such good-paying jobs that, frankly, I am perplexed more Americans don't want to work harder to get trade agreements passed so we can export more and get more good-paying jobs in America.

I must say that today we have a bold plan to strengthen our trade ties with

nations across the Pacific and in Europe.

What is our goal? Our goal is to seize new export opportunities so that we can boost our economy and create jobs here at home. We all know the big to-and-fro here with unemployment insurance. The key is to have fewer people unemployed. How does that happen? More good-paying jobs.

But there is a big first step we need to take before we can act on our trade agenda. What is that? It is Trade Promotion Authority, otherwise known as TPA.

That is why this afternoon Senator HATCH and I introduced the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Our bill will help guarantee these landmark trade deals get done—and get done right.

First, the bill updates TPA by addressing 21st century issues. What are these issues? Nonscientific barriers to U.S. agricultural products, unfair competition from state-owned enterprises, arbitrary localization barriers which require U.S. companies to turn over their intellectual property or locate facilities in a foreign country in order to access foreign markets, and unnecessary restrictions on digital trade and data which flows across borders.

Mr. BAUCUS. That is right. Our bill also addresses critical issues such as labor, environment, and innovation and for the first time currency manipulation. Our bill addresses it.

Senator HATCH and I worked with our good friend from the other body, the Ways and Means Committee Chairman DAVE CAMP, to carefully craft these negotiating objectives and ensure that Congress is a full partner in trade negotiations.

Our bill helps lay out in clear terms what Congress's priorities are for trade. It is our opportunity to tell the administration and our partners overseas what we must see in an agreement if it is going to be approved by Congress.

It boosts congressional oversight, increases transparency in trade negotiations, and it gives every Member of Congress the right to a strong voice in the process.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I want to praise the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee over in the House. He has worked long and hard on these issues and is not only a great partner to the two of us but to every Senator.

What the Senator from Montana just said is absolutely right. Our bill empowers Congress, but it also empowers our negotiators. Its approval will help them conclude high-standard agreements that will open new markets for U.S. exports, ultimately bringing jobs and economic growth to the United States.

Lastly, before I turn back to the chairman, I just want to say again how

critical this legislation is for our Nation and to commend my friend from Montana, the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee, for working to make Trade Promotion Authority a reality. He has always been a tremendous leader on international trade, and I am glad to stand by his side to ensure that the Finance Committee and the Senate considers this job-creating legislation in a fair, thorough, and expeditious manner.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I thank very much my good friend from Utah. As President Kennedy said 52 years ago, this is about working with our trade partners to build strength together. It is about maintaining U.S. preeminence. That is why TPA is so important—because it makes our job-creating trade agenda work, and it helps to secure our future.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am happy to be on the floor to hear the news from Senator HATCH and Senator BAUCUS that they have reached an agreement on trade promotion authority. I wish to congratulate them on that, working with Chairman CAMP on the House side.

This is incredibly important. These two Senators have worked closely together, as Republican and Democrat, over the last few months with the administration to put in place the opportunity for American workers, American farmers, and American service providers to be able to sell their goods and their services on a level playing field by opening more markets for U.S. products. I congratulate them. It is sad to me that for the past 5 or 6 years we haven't had trade promotion authority, and without their strong efforts we still wouldn't have it today.

It has been noted that this administration, the Obama administration, is the first one since FDR not to have asked for even the ability to open these markets through what is called trade promotion authority and its predecessors until last March. So until last spring they hadn't even asked for it. They did ask for it, and thanks to the hard work of these two Senators and Congressman CAMP, we are now going to have that opportunity. This gives our workers, our farmers, and our service providers the ability to access these markets Senator BAUCUS and Senator HATCH spoke about.

It is critical to economic growth. If we look at the growth in the last two or three recoveries, much of it was because of expanding exports. We all believe the current level of economic growth is disappointing. It is anemic growth. We are looking at long-term unemployment being at historic levels, as we have spoken about on the floor all week. One solution, clearly, is for the United States to do more exporting, and we can't do that without trade promotion authority.

I speak as a former U.S. Trade Representative who had the honor of trav-

eling the world representing our great country. I will tell my colleagues, when we got down to the negotiating across the table with another country in terms of how to knock down both tariff and nontariff barriers to trade, if they didn't know there was an ability with an up-or-down vote to get that trade agreement done in the U.S. Congress with something like trade promotion authority, they would not have put their last and best offer on the table. That is a reality.

Our system is different from most systems in countries around the world. We have to have trade promotion authority—that has been our experience—in order to get these trade agreements done to help knock down barriers to the people in the United States who make the best products in the world, who provide the best services in the world and are just looking for a fair shake and a level playing field.

So these two Senators, by doing this today, have opened up the possibility now for us to have trade agreements that give us the opportunity to grow our economy and create, as they both said, good-paying jobs and good benefits, and I congratulate them for that.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, will my colleague from Ohio yield?

Mr. PORTMAN. I am happy to yield to my colleague and ranking member from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to compliment the distinguished Senator because he served as the US Trade Representative. He traveled all over the world. He understands how important these issues are. He understands that without TPA, we wouldn't be able to get these particular trade agreements done. He understands how hard we have worked to try to come up with language we could all accept in spite of some of the proclivities of this administration.

He worked diligently with both sides of the aisle on these issues as the U.S. Trade Representative and continues to as a member of the Senate Finance Committee. I am so grateful we have him on the Senate Finance Committee, with all of his knowledge and his experience, to be able to help us on these particular issues.

I was a little nonplussed last week when one of the leading trade union presidents in this country got on television and was decrying international trade. I made the point a little bit earlier that it means tremendous numbers of jobs, high-paying jobs, growth in our economy. It is hard for me to understand why anybody in the union movement would be against these free-trade policies. They basically allow us to export our goods while, yes, we import others, but that is what free trade is all about.

I wish to personally express my very high opinion of the distinguished Senator from Ohio because I can tell my colleagues that we are so lucky to have him in the Senate with all of his experience in this particular area but in

many other areas as well. He was at OMB as well. There are very few Senators in this body who can claim they have experience equivalent to that of our distinguished friend from Ohio. I personally express my admiration and my resolve to help him help those on the other side of the aisle understand how important his words are here today, how important it is to have free trade, and how important it is to have trade promotion authority so we can have free trade.

Every President since FDR—including him—has been for trade promotion authority—every President.

There is a fear around here amongst some of the Democrats that the unions are going to turn against them. My gosh, the Unions are going to be main beneficiaries of major trade legislation. It is hard for me to comprehend how they can even make a semi-argument against this matter. Hopefully, they will realize this is in their interests, too, because it puts us in the real world, getting real jobs that have higher pay than we wouldn't otherwise get if we didn't have these free-trade agreements and if we aren't able to get TPA passed. I suspect we will get this passed in large measure. I think, with the distinguished chairman of the committee, my friend who has just spoken, will be one of the main reasons why we do.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, will the Senator from Ohio yield for a question?

Mr. PORTMAN. I am glad to yield.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, first of all, I wish to ask my good friend from Ohio if he could expand on what I think is a very important point, and it is namely this: With the world becoming more competitive and with globalization, it is evermore important for the United States of America to strive ahead and to keep working to develop good products, good high-technology products, and to compete in the world. I believe, frankly, when we are treading water, we are sinking. We have to keep moving ahead if we are going to make products and boost incomes and help the American people.

That leads me to another point. If the Senator could tell us a little more and explain to, frankly, some people who may not realize this, what is involved in TPP. What is TPP? Of course, we need trade promotion authority in order to get TPP.

Isn't it important, isn't it critical, isn't it crucial that the United States include a strong Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement not only for economic reasons but also for geopolitical reasons to show to the world, to show to Asian countries that are wondering where the United States is—is the United States going to show up? Is the United States going to maintain its presence in Asia? What will happen if we don't pass trade promotion authority? How will that affect the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, and what effect will that have on other countries in Asia and their perception of the United States?

My understanding is—and we know this better than anybody—that unfortunately President Obama was unable to travel to Southeast Asia to attend the ASEAN conference, and many people around the world are wondering whether the United States is going to show up anymore in Asia.

If the Senator could address how important is it that we engage countries in the Pacific as we negotiate a Trans-Pacific Partnership, including the economic reasons, but also if he could address the geopolitical issue, the degree to which it is important for the United States to negotiate a successful agreement and to be there, to show up.

Mr. PORTMAN. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the question from my colleague from Montana. I will say just based on his question that we are going to miss his wisdom and his experience on the trade issue. He takes some political risks sometimes, I know, as he did in coming up with an agreement on trade promotion authority, because there are many on both sides of the aisle—especially his side of the aisle—who take a different view of this issue. He has been willing to help to educate them as to why this is in the interests of Montana farmers and ranchers and workers.

Senator HATCH spoke earlier about the impact of trade on the people he represents.

My colleague is absolutely right. The trade promotion authority enables us to take that step toward things such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, called TPP—a lot of alphabet soup here with TPA to TPP. That is important, as the Senator just said, because this is the fastest growing region of the world—these are the Pacific countries, countries in South American but also in Asia; it is where the majority of the global GDP is now; and it is an area where, frankly, because of China's strong interest in trade, other countries in the region are looking to the United States to provide not only a market but also to help them with regard to their own markets; therefore, more U.S. exports, more of that, as my colleague said. The best technology in the world is in the United States, the best products in the world that are made here—to be able to export to those countries. So they want to have this relationship with us.

As a future Ambassador to China, I will stipulate that I think the Senator from Montana understands this issue very well. But what this Trans-Pacific Partnership does is two things.

No. 1, it expands trade in an area of the world that again is the fastest growing part of our globe and a place where the tariffs and nontariff barriers are higher, relatively speaking, than they are here. In other words, by lowering barriers we get a relative advantage.

This agreement also, I hope, will deal with the currency issue, as my colleagues have negotiated in this trade promotion authority, which I support.

This is pioneering work they have done in this area. We have to ensure that currency levels are appropriate, that there are not unfair trade advantages being given by countries that depreciate their currency by interfering in it.

So I believe it is about trade, and that is very important for our workers and our farmers and our service providers, but, second, it does have this geopolitical element where those countries in the Asia Pacific area are allies of ours and are looking to us to develop a stronger relationship on the commercial side but also on the intergovernmental side to be able to ensure that the U.S. role continues in that area.

I think this TPA that these Senators have negotiated today that they are announcing is incredibly important because it is the first step toward the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other agreements we can complete, as we just have recently under the old TPA, with South Korea, with Panama, with Colombia—countries where we are seeing expansion of exports as well as a stronger relationship with key countries in the region.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, if I might ask one more question very briefly, and that is this. One more opportunity here with trade promotion authority—with trade promotion authority, clearly we are going to get a Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, and without trade promotion authority, we won't. Other countries will go their ways in the Pacific and wonder, where is the United States?

There is another issue in addition to that. I wonder whether my good friend would agree with this. Not only does trade promotion authority enable our country to negotiate trade agreements with the Pacific—TPP—but isn't it also true that it allows the United States, with the passage of the TPA, to negotiate with European countries? And doesn't that mean that between Asia TPP and TTIP with the European countries, that it is about 70 percent of world trade and is an opportunity for the United States to lead in the harmonization of trade provisions and regulatory provisions not only in Asia and in the Pacific but also in Europe? It is an opportunity to lead? And if we don't pass TPA, is the United States squandering a huge opportunity to lead here in a way that would raise productivity and raise incomes not just in our country but in other countries of the world?

Mr. PORTMAN. Reclaiming my time, the Senator is absolutely right. The alternative is not to pass a trade promotion authority and to have continue to happen what has frankly been going on over the last 6 or 7 years, which is these other countries around the world are actively negotiating agreements, as the Senator from Montana says, using their own standards but also opening markets for their workers, their farmers, and their service providers, and cutting us out of market share.

So what has happened is the European Union, the Chinese, the Canadians, and others have been actively pursuing agreements while we have been on the sidelines because we have not had trade promotion authority. So not only does this give us an opportunity, with this possible agreement with the European Union—which would be an agreement not like a free trade agreement but would be a partnership on investment, on standards, on being sure there is a harmonization that is more like the beneficial metrics that we use in this country that can help both in our economy and, as the Senator says, globally—none of this can happen without us being able to say we are going to have the possibility of taking trade agreements to the Congress for an up-or-down vote—a fair vote. Every one of these agreements will have to be voted on separately because in these other countries they will not put that last, best offer on the table until they know that. They are not going to be nicked and dined and amended to death as they get to the Congress. That is just reality.

We have to get off the sidelines. We have to get reengaged. We have to help our economy, our workers to get their fair share, to get their market share. Right now we are losing that market share, as literally over 100 trade agreements have been negotiated while we have been sitting on the sidelines without having trade promotion authority on both bilateral and regional agreements.

So the Senator is absolutely correct. This is a great opportunity for us to, frankly, take this anemic economy and give it a little shot in the arm. It is part of an overall effort we ought to be doing to provide the kind of economic opportunity we all want for the people we represent.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am happy to yield to the Senator from Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I think we should all be listening to this man, this Senator from Ohio, who has had a wealth of experience not just in budget matters but also especially in these trade matters.

There are 11 countries in the TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and we would like to come to an agreement on it. There are 28 different countries in the European agreement on TTIP that we would like to bring to fruition, and you can go on from there.

Having said that, I cannot compliment my friend from Ohio enough. But I also want to pay tribute to our chairman of the committee. He is willing to do this. He believes in it. He has had plenty of witness that this is the way to do good trade, and he is willing to stand up and see that it is done. I cannot think of a better sendoff to China as the new Ambassador—as soon

as we finally finish these confirmation proceedings—than having passed TPA, which enables us to do free trade agreements all over the world and enables our fellow countries to realize that we can get it done.

I want to pay tribute to the chairman, as well as my colleague from Ohio, for their work in this area, and to say that this country will be much the better once we pass TPA and then get these trade agreements done so the United States resumes its role in the world as the world's chief economic competitor, and doing it in a way that would benefit the whole world but, more importantly, benefit this country.

So I want to thank my colleague from Montana, and my colleague from Ohio as well. My colleague from Montana is going to be here at least a little bit longer, and hopefully we can get this passed in his honor. I think he deserves that honor. I know the distinguished Senator from Ohio and myself will do everything in our power to assist in this matter.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank the Senator.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2627. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2628. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2629. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2630. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2631. Mr. REID (for Mr. REED) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2632. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2631 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED) to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2633. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2634. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2633 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2635. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2634 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2633 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2636. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2637. Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2638. Mr. REID (for Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID, of NV to the resolution S. Res. 312, urging the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history.

SA 2639. Mr. REID (for Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID, of NV to the resolution S. Res. 312, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2627. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

(a) FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS.—Paragraph (2)(E) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”.

(b) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—Paragraph (4)(A) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

SA 2628. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Add at the end the following:

TITLE II—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 201. STEERING FEDERAL TRAINING DOLLARS TOWARD SKILLS NEEDED BY INDUSTRY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(54) CREDENTIAL.—

“(A) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED.—The term ‘industry-recognized’, used with respect to a credential, means a credential that is sought or accepted by employers within the industry sector involved as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, hiring, or advancement. If a credential is not yet available for a certain skill that is sought or accepted, completion of an industry-recognized training program shall be considered to be an industry-recognized credential, for the purposes of this paragraph.

“(B) NATIONALLY PORTABLE.—The term ‘nationally portable’, used with respect to credential, means a credential that is sought or accepted as described in subparagraph (A) across multiple States.

“(C) REGIONALLY RELEVANT.—The term ‘regionally relevant’, used with respect to a credential, means a credential that is determined by the Governor and the head of the State workforce agency to be sought or accepted as described in subparagraph (A) in that State and neighboring States.

“(55) STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY.—The term ‘State workforce agency’ means the lead State agency with responsibility for workforce investment activities carried out under subtitle B.”

(b) YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—Section 129(c)(1)(C) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2854(c)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (ii) through (iv) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively; and

(2) inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) training, with priority consideration given, after consultation with the Governor and the head of the State workforce agency and beginning not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act,