

21st Century Jobs Package

1. Federal Institute of Technology and Science Funding

At the center of this proposal is the creation of a Federal Institute of Technology (FIT), with presence in multiple locations around the country. These locations will initially take the form of additional facilities and faculty within or alongside existing universities and complementing ecosystems that are already dynamic. Over time, they will grow to include new stand-alone operations in areas without strong existing university bases. The vision, as in the past, is to marry federal resources and guidance with local initiative.

The proposed budget for this entire initiative is \$900 billion over ten years. This would raise total public R&D spending to 1% of GDP by the end of the period, returning us to our role as an international leader. Most importantly, it would create as many as three million good new jobs per year. Many of these jobs would be in places that have fallen behind.

2) Computer Science for Every Student and More Educators

Making Computer Science Part of Every Student's Educational Experience

This bill modifies Sec. 1111(b)1(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to add "Computer Science" to the list of subjects that states must create academic standards for. Currently, that list only requires "mathematics, reading or language arts, and science." Effectively, this mandates computer science to be part of the base curriculum for all K-12 students nationwide. Computer science as defined in this legislation will include data science.

Investing in the Full Pipeline of Teacher Training

This bill also creates an \$8 billion grant fund administered by the Department of Education to states to help implement the new standards, train and certify educators at the local and higher educational levels, acquire educational materials, and build out technical infrastructure, including equipment.

Our goal through this legislation is to create 100,000 new computer science education K-12 teachers at a cost of \$5 billion per year. It will also include \$1 billion for state colleges and universities to grow the ranks of computer science education graduate faculty by 10,000, a more than tenfold increase from present levels.

3) Federal Software Preference to Keep Jobs at Home in Places Left Behind

This part of the package will incentivize contractors who sell software to the federal government to locate part of their workforce in America, and specifically in rural (as defined by the USDA) and disadvantaged minority areas.

This legislation will give more favorable consideration to bids where at least 10% of the computer programming for the software is completed in America's rural and disadvantaged minority areas. By incentivizing this relocation of work, there could be a move by government

contractors to open software development locations in areas left behind and create good paying tech jobs.

4) Stronger Equal Employment Opportunity Reporting Requirements

Stronger Equal Employment Opportunity reporting requirements will be created for companies based upon the number of employees they hire by country and location. This part would help identify businesses that are sending jobs to foreign countries by requiring employers to report the number of individuals they employ, the countries in which the employees perform their jobs, and the revenue generated by location. Such reporting would include the number of employees by country and their respective revenues in those countries. Currently, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) already collects workforce data from employers with more than 100 employees (lower thresholds apply to federal contractors) as the EEO-1 Report, otherwise known as The Employer Information Report. Congress should adopt stronger Equal Employment Opportunity reporting requirements for companies based upon the number of employees they hire by country and location.

5) Rural and Minority STEM Scholarship

This provision creates Department of Education–administered “SMART Students Everywhere Grants” to fund up to 50,000 annual scholarships worth up to \$10,000 over the course of their study for racial and ethnic minority students and students from rural communities studying STEM in undergraduate, graduate, or certificate programs. The provision achieves this by reviving, focusing, and improving now-defunct “SMART grants” which were a smaller scholarship program for students studying STEM that ended in 2010.

6) Tech Hiring Incentives for Rural and Disadvantaged Minority Workers

Through a tax incentive, the provision will incentivize companies, located in rural and minority areas, to hire graduates who receive the rural and minority STEM scholarship.

The following tax credit is authorized, and the IRS should create a regulation to implement it during the first year of an established FIT. Companies are eligible to claim the tax credit by hiring a person who received the rural and minority STEM scholarship:

- 5% of \$50,000 of the employee’s first year wages. Maximum credit of \$5,000.
- 10% of \$50,000 of the employee’s first year wages if they are a veteran, taking a job in a rural area, are from a rural area, or are minorities. Maximum credit of \$10,000.