AMENDMENT NO._______ Calendar No._____

Purpose: To improve the bill.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 3084

To invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

Referred to the Committee on ________________ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENTS intended to be proposed by Mr. SCHATZ

Viz:

1. At the end of title III, add the following:

2. SEC. 312. DEVELOPING STEM APPRENTICESHIPS.

   (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

   (1) The lack of data on the return on investment for United States employers using registered apprenticeships makes it difficult—

   (A) to communicate the value of these programs to businesses; and

   (B) to expand registered apprenticeships.

   (2) The lack of data on the value and impact of employer-provided worker training, which is likely substantial, hinders the ability of the Federal Gov-
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government ability to formulate policy related to work-
force training.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce has initiated—

(A) the first study on the return on invest-
ment for United States employers using reg-
istered apprenticeships through case studies of
firms in various sectors, occupations, and geo-
graphic locations to provide the business com-
munity with data on employer benefits and
costs; and

(B) discussions with officials at relevant
Federal agencies about the need to collect com-
prehensive data on—

(i) employer-provided worker training;

and

(ii) existing tools that could be used
to collect such data.

(B) DEVELOPMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMA-
TION.—The Secretary shall continue to research the value
to businesses of utilizing apprenticeship programs, includ-
ing—

(1) evidence of return on investment of appren-
ticeships, including estimates for the average time it
takes a business to recover the costs associated with
training apprentices; and
(2) data from the United States Census Bureau
and other statistical surveys on employer-provided
training, including apprenticeships and other on-the-
job training and industry-recognized certification
programs.

(c) Dissemination of Apprenticeship Informa-
tion.—The Secretary shall disseminate findings from re-
search on apprenticeships to businesses and other relevant
stakeholders, including—

(1) institutions of higher education;

(2) State and local chambers of commerce; and

(3) workforce training organizations.

(d) Studying Approaches to Collecting Em-
ployer-provided Worker Training Data.—The Sec-
retary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall—

(1) collaborate to identify approaches to col-
lecting employer-provided worker training data;

(2) provide a report to the relevant congres-
sional committees on—

(A) the existing tools available to collect
such data; and

(B) the time and cost of collecting such
data; and
(3) provide recommendations to the relevant congressional committees on additional tools that may be needed to collect such data.

(e) NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM STUDY.—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall collaborate to study approaches for reducing the cost of creating new apprenticeship programs and hosting apprentices for businesses, particularly small businesses, including—

(1) training sharing agreements;
(2) group training models; and
(3) pooling resources and best practices.

(f) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANTS.—The Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 28. STEM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out a grant program to identify the need for skilled science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this section as ‘STEM’) workers and to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.

"(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘eligible recipient’ means—

"(1) a State;
“(2) an Indian tribe;
“(3) a city or other political subdivision of a State;
“(4) an entity that—
“(A) is a nonprofit organization, an institution of higher education, a public-private partnership, a science or research park, a Federal laboratory, or an economic development organization or similar entity; and
“(B) has an application that is supported by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or a native organization; or
“(5) a consortium of any of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (5).
“(c) NEEDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS.—The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient to conduct a needs assessment to identify—
“(1) the unmet need of a region’s employer base for skilled STEM workers;
“(2) the potential of STEM apprenticeships to address the unmet need described in paragraph (1); and
“(3) any barriers to addressing the unmet need described in paragraph (1).
“(d) **APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION GRANTS.**—The Secretary may provide a grant to an eligible recipient that has conducted a needs assessment as described in subsection (c)(1) to develop infrastructure to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.”.

Beginning on page 121, strike lines 8 through 10 and insert the following:

“(7) the promotion and expansion of certification systems, including efforts to assist small- and medium-sized manufacturing businesses in creating new apprenticeships or utilizing existing apprenticeships, such as facilitating training and providing access to information and experts, to address workforce needs and skills gaps;