



The Pathways Advancing Career Training (PACT) Act H.R.5774

The Pathways Advancing Career Training (PACT) Act, introduced by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA), was created to help meet the diverse employment needs of the 21st century economy. PACT would provide assistance to States for training programs that prepare women for employment in high-wage, high-skill fields where they are often underrepresented. It would also allow States to develop and support programs that address barriers to employment for single parents and for displaced homemakers—divorced and widowed women re-entering the workforce after extended periods of time at home caring for family members. In doing so, PACT would target those families most in need—female-headed families—while helping to build the highly-skilled, diverse workforce that is critical to continued US competitiveness.

Why PACT?

- Despite decades of progress, economic equity is still an elusive goal—especially for certain groups of women. More than 6.4 million single mothers and nearly 4.3 million displaced homemakers in the United States struggle below or just slightly above the poverty line. PACT would do what our current job training system has failed to accomplish; it would meet the unique needs of these unemployed and underemployed women by scaling up successful programs from across the country.
- Improving women's job prospects is essential to the economic security of U.S. families. Nearly 60% of all children in poverty live in female-headed households.
- Employers are already struggling to find skilled workers, with additional shortages expected in coming decades. Moving women into the pipeline for high-wage, high-skill jobs will boost their earnings by as much as 20 or 30 percent, while providing employers with the skilled workforce they need to compete globally.

PACT provides:

- Funding to States for programs for individuals entering occupations that are nontraditional for their gender.
- Funding to States for programs for single parents and displaced homemakers.
- Flexibility to States in the design and implementation of programs to meet the needs of local

labor markets.

- Coordinated performance accountability measures to assure advancement in the training, placement and retention of workers.