



July 1, 2008

Statement in Support of the TAA Competitiveness Coalition

Third Way is pleased to support the efforts of the Trade and American Competitiveness Coalition (TAA Competitiveness Coalition) to pass Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) reform this Congress.

We share the coalition's view that the expansion of TAA is—on its own merits—a top priority. Since its creation, this program has helped thousands of Americans who have lost their jobs to trade to gain new skills and new employment. Yet the current program has significant flaws that cut short its potential to reach more Americans and help them succeed in a changing economy. The reforms supported by the Coalition, such as expanding TAA to service workers, would make great strides toward transforming TAA into a robust and positive tool for ensuring the future success of American workers in a globalized world.

We also believe that initiatives such as TAA reform can ultimately have significant impact on moving public opinion on trade. Americans' current reluctance to embrace open trade and global economic engagement is intimately linked to their anxieties about the changing economy. By giving Americans more tools to succeed in the face of change, TAA expansion and reform can help give Americans more confidence in the benefits of open trade and globalization.

Finally, we are also greatly encouraged by the leadership of the business community in advocating TAA reform on its own merits. We strongly believe in the tremendous potential of the business community for developing and advocating new policies that will not only bolster economic growth but ensure that American workers share in America's success.

Third Way applauds the leadership of the TAA Competitiveness Coalition in pushing for a much-needed overhaul of TAA. The coalition's efforts have the ability to affect real and immediate change, and Third Way stands ready to assist in this important endeavor.