



[manchin.senate.gov](http://manchin.senate.gov) • @Sen\_Joemanchin

## TRAINING OUR WORKFORCE FOR JOBS NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

*“Too many West Virginians and Americans have been unemployed for far too long. West Virginians don’t want a handout, they want good jobs with benefits to provide for their families. There’s nothing compassionate about writing checks to the unemployed without making sure they’re also getting the training and education they need to get the jobs that exist now and into the future. Our nation should make sure every man and woman who is physically able to work gets the skills and education they need to get a job.”*

*~ Senator Joe Manchin*

Senator Manchin believes that every American who is able to work should have the opportunity to provide for their families with a good-paying job. Rather than handing out unemployment checks, Senator Manchin believes that American workers should be retrained for the jobs that exist.

Continuing to give people checks isn’t going to solve the jobs crisis or bring a single lost job back – it will just keep digging a deeper hole of debt. The most compassionate thing we can do for the long-term unemployed is encourage them to get the skills to go back to work in good jobs and have the dignity of a hard day’s work. More than 3 million jobs are going unfilled because American workers don’t have the skills needed for the positions available. Much of the demand for skilled workers is currently in high tech, manufacturing and the trades. With so many jobs going unfilled, it just makes sense to try to match the unemployed with available positions – and that requires job training.

Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation was established in 2008 to provide an additional maximum of 53 weeks of federal unemployment benefits, in addition to the unemployment benefits already provided by individual states. In order for emergency federal unemployment benefits to be extended again – at a cost of \$49 billion – Senator Manchin will offer an amendment that will require individuals to get job or skill training of some sort as a prerequisite to receiving emergency unemployment compensation. At community colleges and technical schools, programs are often created based on the needs of local employers, and that system should be used to help train and retrain West Virginians and Americans for jobs in new and existing industries.

### RETRAIN FOR WORK ACT

Senator Manchin’s legislation would require that those who receive unemployment compensation enroll in:

- A state-certified job retraining program;
- Continuing education such as high school; a GED credential program or another state-recognized equivalent program, or an institution of higher education;
- A state-recognized career and technical education program.

The legislation would work to make sure that the millions of Americans looking for jobs get the skills they need for existing jobs – putting Americans back to work while also rebuilding America.