

Task Force on National Security and U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness: Summary and signature policy recommendations

| Challenge | Desired Outcome | Signature Policy Recommendations | Key Actor(s) | Success Measures |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| 1. Workforce level and skills gap | Reform education system to focus on skills, not degrees, to better match manufacturing needs | Scale up workforce development programs to increase worker credentialing. Make shorter-term training programs eligible for federal programs like Pell Grants. This would help close the manufacturing skill gap, as students and employers could access federal funds that traditionally subsidize college degrees to fund credential programs, apprenticeships, and internships in trade skills. | Private sector employers; federal government | 2 million new or retrained workers in strategic manufacturing subsectors by 2030 |
| 2. Need for greater productivity growth | Return to historic average manufacturing labor productivity growth levels | | | 500,000 new graduates of trade schools/ apprenticeship programs |
| 3. Inadequate capital investment | Investment spending to accelerate adoption of Industry 4.0 digital technologies and processes | Stand up a public-private capability to finance investments in domestic manufacturing sectors critical to national security. Potentially could take multiple forms, e.g.: new government sponsored entity, changes in authorities to existing institutions, a new sovereign fund, or incentivized “Patriot Funds” of private capital investors | Private sector; federal, state, local governments | Labor productivity growth levels of 3.9%+ (average in 1990-2000 “steady state” period) |
| 4. Fragile supplier ecosystem | Strengthen the core of American supplier base with a focus on small / medium enterprises (SMEs) | | | Invest \$100B+ annually in plants, infrastructure, and related capabilities |
| 5. Lack of coordination among U.S. government actors | Streamline regulatory burdens and de-duplicate responsibilities between state and federal entities | Modernize the Defense Production Act for the 21st century. Expand authorities to include: fast-tracked, simplified permitting, visas for critical talent, staple financing for projects | Federal (Congress/ executive) and state/ local governments | 35k new SME manufacturers in critical subsectors by 2030 (address ½ decline in number of suppliers since 90s “steady state”) to improve supply chain resiliency |
| 6. Insufficient architecture for international coordination | Establish US-led forums to coordinate allies on geoeconomic topics like: global tech standards, data governance, and supply chains | | | Improved coordination on geoeconomic issues among the major democracies |