

Task Force on National Security and U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness: Signature policy recommendations matrix

Challenge	Desired Outcome	Signature Policy Recommendations	Key Actor(s)	Success Measures
1. Significant technical skills gap	Reform education system to focus on skills, not degrees, to better match manufacturing needs	<p>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 skills gap, as students and employers could access federal funds that traditionally subsidize college degrees to fund credential programs, apprenticeships, and internships in trade skills.</p> <p>Stand up a public-private capability to finance investments in domestic manufacturing sectors critical to national security. Could take a variety of forms, including a new government-sponsored investment entity, changes in authorities to existing institutions, direct bond buying programs, a sovereign fund, or incentivized private capital funds.</p> <p>Modernize the Defense Production Act for the 21st century. Enable solutions for critical manufacturing facilities, such as targeted visa approvals, direct project financing, automatic fast-tracked permitting, and investments in workforce training.</p> <p>Establish new forum of G7 + Quad countries. Complement U.S.-EU TTC efforts by enhancing coordination across standards, data governance, and supply chain resilience. In addition, extend “Canadian exemption” for ITAR to NTIB countries.</p>	Private sector employers; federal government	2 million new or retrained workers in strategic manufacturing subsectors by 2030
2. Unsatisfactory productivity gains	Return to historic average manufacturing labor productivity growth levels			500,000 new graduates of trade schools and apprenticeship programs
3. Inadequate capital investment	Investment spending to accelerate adoption of Industry 4.0 digital technologies and processes		Private sector; federal, state, local governments	Labor productivity growth levels of more than 3.9 percent (average in 1990-2000 “steady state” period)
4. Fragile domestic supplier ecosystems	Strengthen the core of American supplier base with a focus on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)			Invest \$100B+ annually in plants, infrastructure, and related capabilities
5. Lack of coordination within government	Streamline regulatory burdens and deduplicate responsibilities between local, state, and federal entities		Federal (Congress/ Executive), state, local governments	35,000 new SME manufacturers in critical subsectors by 2030 (address 50 percent decline in number of suppliers since 1990s “steady state”) to improve supply chain resiliency
6. Insufficient architecture for international partnerships	Establish U.S.-led forums to coordinate allies on geoeconomic topics, including global tech standards, data governance, and supply chains			Federal (Executive)