



**Markup Statement on
the American Manufacturing Leadership Act
Rep. Haley Stevens
*May 1, 2019***

Thank you, Chairwoman Johnson.

I am so proud of this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the Manufacturing USA Program.

The earliest institute, America Makes, was stood up in Youngstown, Ohio in 2012. The National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, later renamed Manufacturing USA, was formalized in the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2014, or RAMI.

Today, there are 14 institutes in the network, including the LIFT institute in Southeast Michigan.

As we heard in our Committee hearing on Advanced Manufacturing in March, the strength of these institutes lies in the public-private partnership. The private partners, who contribute at least a 50 percent of the cost, come together to collaborate on pre-competitive R&D in specific technology areas.

They are only able to do this because of support from the Federal government in the planning, development, management, and operations

for each institute. The federal funding also helps research, education, and outreach activities that the private sector is unlikely to support on its own.

The Manufacturing USA Institutes are a critical part of U.S. global leadership in advanced manufacturing. The institutes provide a unique collaborative platform for U.S. industry and academia to exchange best-in-class expertise to solve challenges and push the bounds of innovation.

In 2017 alone, Manufacturing USA raised almost \$180 million in investments from the private sector from nearly 1,300 manufacturers, universities, community colleges, government labs, and NGOs.

The Program is making great strides in workforce development as well. For example, in 2017 the LIFT institute reached over 160,000 students across the country through innovative web-based curricula as well as in-person training programs. These programs taught our students about the science and technology used by materials manufacturers and manufacturing processes.

H.R. 2397, the *American Manufacturing Leadership Act*, or AMLA, will ensure that the program can continue to contribute to the growth of our domestic advanced manufacturing industry and an advanced manufacturing workforce to fill the high-skills jobs of the future.

We will never be able to compete by bringing back the manufacturing of yesterday. We must continue to push the boundaries of innovation to grow the industries of tomorrow.

H.R. 2397 reauthorizes Manufacturing USA through 2024 and extends the requirements of the original RAMI Act to all agencies that sponsor centers for manufacturing innovation.

I want to be clear: each agency that funds institutes will continue to manage its own institutes with a significant amount of flexibility in how they do so. This legislation only seeks to standardize some of the performance metrics and reporting, strengthen coordination, increase engagement of small manufacturers to help build out the entire supply chain, and ensure each institute prioritizes education and workforce training needs specific to its own technology area.

AMLA also authorizes agencies to renew institutes for an additional period of funding following a rigorous review of the institute's progress.

AMLA expands the authorities of the Manufacturing USA Program office at NIST to develop network-wide performance goals, create pilot programs, and identify and disseminate best practices in education and workforce training for the institutes.

AMLA strengthens the important partnership between the Manufacturing USA Program and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, as well as other relevant programs across the Federal government so that we are truly leveraging all existing resources to help the institutes achieve their goals.

Finally, the bill authorizes a total of \$125 million for NIST over 5 years as well as \$378 million for the Department of Energy. These funds will enable each agency to continue funding their current institutes and stand up at least one additional institute in FY 2020, and each year after.

I am delighted to have been joined by colleagues on both sides of the aisle to introduce H.R. 2397. I want to thank Chairwoman Johnson, Representatives Balderson and Gonzalez, and the sponsors of the original RAMI Act, Representatives Kennedy and Reed, for their partnership in leading this legislation and for being such great champions for advanced manufacturing.

The American Manufacturing and Leadership Act has already been endorsed by the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, the American Society for Mechanical Engineers, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, and BPC Action.

I urge my colleagues to support this is critically important legislation that will give our country a leg up in economic competitiveness and national security.

Thank you and I yield back.