

# FY27 Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program

Sending Office: Honorable Mike Kelly  
Sent By: Ben.Chamberlin@mail.house.gov

Request for Cosponsor(s)

## Support Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Funding in FY 2027

**\*\*This is a programmatic and a report language request\*\***

We invite you to join our bipartisan letter to Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng urging them to **provide at least \$175 million and include report language directing at least eighty-five percent of these funds to MEP Centers in the FY27 CJS Appropriations bill.**

If you would like to join this appropriations request, [please sign on via Quill](#) Deadline for this letter is **Thursday March 12th 2026 5pm EDT**. If you have any questions, please contact Ben Chamberlin ([ben.chamberlin@mail.house.gov](mailto:ben.chamberlin@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. Kelly or Ryan Early ([ryan.early@mail.house.gov](mailto:ryan.early@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. McGovern.

The Honorable Harold Rogers	The Honorable Grace Meng
Chairman	Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-310	H-310
Washington, DC 20515	Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to urge your continued support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. We respectfully request that you provide level funding for the program in the amount of \$175 million and include bill and report language below which will restore normal operations and program stability while directing at least eighty-five percent of these funds to MEP Centers. We recognize that it is unusual to request such extensive bill language. We are doing so because previous report language has been disregarded.

*The requested bill language states, "Provided, That the Secretary shall renew all cooperative agreements authorized by section 278k of title 15, United States Code, for eligible entities in each State and Puerto Rico. Provided further, that no less than 85 percent of appropriated funds be allocated directly to MEP Centers through 15 U.S.C. 278k, 15 U.S.C. 278k-1 or 15 U.S.C. 278k-2. Provided further, that funds made available to eligible entities authorized by 15 U.S.C. 278k, 15 U.S.C. 278k-1 or 15 U.S.C. 278k-2 shall be deemed to be obligated at the time of the award, which shall be no later than 30 days after the expiration of the previous renewal or award date and thereafter shall remain available to the eligible entity without fiscal year limitation. Provided further, that none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be obligated or expended for any revision of the program without explicit approval from the Committees in the respective full-year appropriations act, and that any such obligation or expenditure shall comply with the authorization requirements in 15 U.S.C. 278k."*

*The requested report language states, "In recognition of strong bicameral and bipartisan congressional support, the agreement continues strong support for the MEP program and provides \$175,000,000. The Secretary is directed to continue the program under the same terms and conditions as were required in fiscal year 2024 and to issue awards at no less than the amounts in fiscal year 2026."*

The MEP program is the only nationwide network of public-private partnerships that provides technology-based services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs). These services enable SMMs to create good-paying manufacturing jobs, improve efficiency and productivity, and enhance global competitiveness. MEP Centers play a critical role in equipping manufacturers with the tools, training, and technologies necessary to compete in an increasingly demanding global market.

The impact of the MEP program is well-documented. According to an independent annual survey conducted in Fiscal Year 2024, MEP clients reported \$15 billion in new and retained sales directly attributed to MEP services provided. Additionally, MEP clients increased their production capacity, reporting \$5 billion in new investments over the same period.

American manufacturing is essential to securing our nation's supply chains. To maintain national security, we must reduce dependence on foreign nations for critical goods such as medical supplies, technology, and defense equipment. The funding will provide the necessary resources to strengthen domestic supply chains—an investment vital to our economic and national security. Furthermore, directing at least eighty-five percent of the funds to MEP Centers will maximize the program's effectiveness by ensuring resources reach the manufacturers that need them most.

MEP is the only national program that connects all levels of the supply chain, including small businesses, large Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), and government agencies. By offering services such as reshoring, supplier identification, and risk reduction, MEP strengthens the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and reduces reliance on foreign production for essential goods.

Manufacturing remains the backbone of the American economy. Investing in small and medium manufacturers supports job creation, strengthens the middle class, and fosters economic growth in communities nationwide. In Fiscal Year 2024, MEP clients reported the creation and retention of 108,395 jobs. With the average U.S. manufacturing worker earning over \$106,691 in wages and benefits per year, these jobs generate significant local, state, and federal tax revenues, further driving economic prosperity.

By investing in the MEP program, the United States can reinforce its position as a global leader in manufacturing, ensuring economic security and strengthening domestic industries including our defense industrial base. We respectfully request that you provide \$175 million in funding for the MEP Center network in Fiscal Year 2027, along with the requested bill and report language noted above.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

James P. McGovern

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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