

Committee on Ways and Means

TEXTILE PROVISIONS IN BIPARTISAN CONFERENCE REPORT

- New principal negotiating objective for textiles: obtaining competitive opportunities for U.S. exports of textiles substantially equivalent to those for foreign textiles in the United States
- Trade Adjustment Assistance:
 - Extend TAA for 5 years
 - Statutory secondary worker benefits for upstream (e.g., fabric) workers, as well as for downstream workers affected by trade to Canada and Mexico
 - Receive benefits if firm merely shifts production to any country with a free trade agreement with the United States or to a country eligible under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, or the Andean Trade Preferences Act
 - Receive benefits if firm shifts production to a country and imports have increased or are likely to increase
 - Health care tax credit for TAA beneficiaries
 - Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance for Older Workers, including health care tax credit
 - Health care tax credit for workers covered by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Board
 - Add 26 weeks of benefits to match training
 - Speed certification process from 60 days to 40
- Shrinkage of benefits for textile imports from House-passed bill:
 - Dyeing and finishing for U.S. fabric, including hybrid cutting provision
 - No dyeing and finishing requirement for U.S. thread
 - Apparel of regional fabric with regional yarn caps cut by one-third from House-passed bill
 - Use of third country fabric excluded from increase in cap for African benefits
- Special identification and consultations with Ways & Means and Agriculture Committees for products facing tariff disparities (higher foreign tariffs than U.S. tariffs)
- Currency language in “promotion of certain priorities” section: seek to establish consultative mechanisms to examine the trade consequences of significant and unanticipated currency movements and to scrutinize whether a foreign government engaged in a pattern of manipulating its currency to promote competitive advantage in international trade
- Authorizations on textile transshipments:
 - Funds necessary to reestablish Customs NY operations, including textile enforcement operations
 - GAO audit of textile transshipment monitoring by Customs
 - Additional \$9.5 million for Customs textile transshipment enforcement operations
- Expanded negotiating objectives on antidumping, countervailing duties, and safeguards