

One Year of the Jobs Agenda

Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester's Jobs Agenda, unveiled on April 12, 2023, is a comprehensive package of eight bills **designed to invest in Delaware's workforce, address workforce shortages, strengthen our supply chains, boost American manufacturing, and expand access to affordable housing.** Many of the bills are bipartisan and bicameral and have received support from interest groups, stakeholders, and constituents.

The Jobs Agenda:

- **The Jobs Act**
 - *Bipartisan and bicameral bill to expand Pell Grant eligibility for short-term job training programs*
- **The Housing Supply and Affordability Act**
 - *Bipartisan and bicameral bill to increase our available and affordable housing supply*
- **The Clean Slate Act**
 - *Bipartisan bill that gives a clean slate and a second chance to qualifying individuals*
- **The Building Resilient Supply Chains Act**
 - *Bipartisan bill to improve supply chain resiliency by creating a new mapping and monitoring program and national strategy to prevent supply chain crises*
- **The Supply CHAINS Act**
 - *Creates a dedicated supply chain resiliency office to prevent and pre-empt supply chain shocks and improve U.S. manufacturing in America.*
- **The Immersive Technology for the American Workforce Act**
 - *Bipartisan bill that supports the use of immersive technology for workforce training purposes at community colleges and career and technical education programs*
- **The National Nursing Workforce Center Act**
 - *Bipartisan bill to combat nursing workforce shortage*
- **The Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act**
 - *Invests in and prioritizes diversity in our energy workforce*

Lisa Blunt Rochester

One Year of the Jobs Agenda

Throughout the past year, Blunt Rochester has pushed for the Jobs Agenda's priorities through the following actions:

- **Investing in Our Workforce**

- Secured **\$5 million for workforce-related projects** to improve workforce development programs, youth learning opportunities, and utilization of emerging technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR);
- Secured **provisions of the Jobs Agenda in the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** including investments in workforce education at community colleges, innovative applications of immersive technology, enhancement of adult education and digital literacy, strengthening of second chance initiatives, support for opportunity youth, and improving workforce data collection;
- Hosted **bipartisan Future of Work Caucus roundtables** on 1) **immersive technology for the workforce**, 2) **artificial intelligence and the health care workforce**, 3) **the cyber security workforce shortage**;
- Became the **lead sponsor of the bipartisan Jumpstart Our Businesses By Supporting Students (JOBS) Act**, a bipartisan and bicameral bill in the Jobs Agenda to expand Pell Grant eligibility for short-term job training programs;

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Throughout the past year, Blunt Rochester has pushed for the Jobs Agenda's priorities through the following actions:

- **Investing in Our Workforce**

- Partnered with U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons to **secure Delaware's designation as a Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hub) to become a global leader in precision medicine;**
- Partnered with U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons to **secure Delaware's inclusion in the Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub (MACH2) to fuel a national clean hydrogen network that will contribute substantially to decarbonizing multiple sectors of the economy while achieving environmental justice. MACH2 is expected to create more than 20,000 good-paying clean energy jobs, including union jobs.**
- Participated in events across Delaware to highlight investments in **workforce training such as aviation programming in Dover, child care in Wilmington, and an event in Wilmington's Riverside neighborhood focused on equipping young people with the skills they need to be successful;**
- **Advanced the National Nursing Workforce Center Act, a bill included in the Jobs Agenda to combat the nursing workforce shortage, by securing its inclusion in a House Health Subcommittee Legislative Hearing on the health and primary care workforce.**

Blunt Rochester

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Throughout the past year, Blunt Rochester has pushed for the Jobs Agenda's priorities through the following actions:

- ***Fighting for a Second Chance and a Clean Slate for Justice-Involved Individuals***
 - Collaborated with Delaware banks, National Basketball Social Justice Coalition (NBSJC), and the Congressional Second Chance Task Force on which Blunt Rochester is co-chair to keep the momentum going on passing the Clean Slate Act nationwide; NBSJC is a coalition of players, coaches, team governors, and executives leading the National Basketball Association's advocacy work to dismantle racial inequality and advance social justice;
 - Led a **multi-member request for funding for First Step Act programs in FY2024 appropriations process** to promote second chances through skill building/vocational training that has been shown to reduce recidivism; and
 - In 2023, **two additional states enacted Clean Slate legislation** bringing the total number of states to 12. Delaware passed Clean Slate in 2021.

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- ***Expanding Access to Affordable Housing***
 - **Delivered over \$6 million in community project funding for affordable housing opportunities across Delaware;**
 - Led a bipartisan amendment in support of the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) Grant program **to fund zoning reform – a proven solution to remove barriers and grow our supply of affordable housing;** and
 - **Participated in public-private partnerships** in the announcement of investments in affordable housing opportunities.
- ***Strengthening our Supply Chains***
 - Introduced the **bipartisan Promoting Resilient Supply Chains Act**, legislation based on the Supply CHAINS Act that was included in the Jobs Agenda to map and monitor supply chains to prevent and pre-empt supply chain shocks before they occur. **The bill passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously in December 2023;**
 - **Toured the state of Delaware meeting with local unions, small businesses, and companies** to discuss supply chain challenges and solutions; and
 - Held a **roundtable** conversation on supply chain resiliency for **Delaware life sciences and businesses with the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce.**

Lisa Blunt Rochester