

Trade

Since coming to Congress Rep. Eshoo has been a consistent supporter of policies to promote free and fair trade, fully appreciating the value of international trading partnerships as a tool to expand our economic and social interests internationally. In negotiating these agreements, Rep. Eshoo places the highest priority on eliminating the potential for trade agreements to degrade existing labor and environmental standards around the world.

In our rapidly-changing global economy, the effects of expanded trade are often felt disproportionately within different sectors of our economy. To provide aid to workers displaced by factors tied to international trade, Rep. Eshoo has been a prominent advocate for the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which provides aid to workers who lose their jobs or whose hours of work and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports.

In 2005 Rep. Eshoo sponsored H.R. 4156, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Improvement Act, which extends TAA benefits to affected service sector employees including IT workers, engineers, customer services employees, and others. The legislation triples the current training funding cap from \$220 million to \$660 million by 2012 in order to ensure that benefits are accessible to all eligible workers, and increases the healthcare premium subsidy from 65% to 80%.