WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney tonight released the following statement after President Obama's State of the Union address:

"Tonight, President Obama rightly kept Washington's focus on our continued economic recovery. The blueprint he set forth addresses many of the concerns I am hearing in eastern Connecticut. I am pleased that he emphasized manufacturing jobs and ensuring that workers' training and skills match the needs of businesses and sectors that are bringing our economy back.

"The President's focus on education, especially partnerships between community colleges and businesses is critical to creating the jobs of tomorrow. In particular Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield is already leading that effort, and legislation like the bipartisan Public Private Vocational Partnership Act will give this effort an additional boost. A college education is key to success in today's economy, and I am encouraged by the President's continued efforts to rein in college costs and help young people repay the student loans that have weighed them down too heavily for too long."

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