



Dec. 16, 2024

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 67 chapters representing more than 23,000 members, I write in support of [H.R.6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, as amended](#). This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the first time in nearly a decade and promotes America's economic competitiveness.

ABC applauds the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions for reaching a deal on WIOA that secures funding for workforce development and addresses the construction industry's evolving need for qualified and skilled craft professionals by modernizing WIOA from its most recent reauthorization in 2014. ABC and our members support H.R.6655's all-of-the-above approach to workforce development, which would:

- Support work-based learning, including employer-led and on-the-job workforce upskilling programs and opportunities;
- Direct more dollars toward tangible worker programs by dedicating 50% of the adult and dislocated worker funding to upskilling workers through individual training accounts, on-the-job learning and other employer-led and industry-relevant initiatives;
- Streamline the "eligible training provider list" to ensure programs align with in-demand jobs and employer needs to secure better jobs and workforce opportunities;
- Enhance state flexibility, allowing them to support a "critical industry skills fund" that assists employers to upskill their existing workforce;
- Create a level playing field for workforce training providers to achieve the newly established Workforce Industry Leader credential; and
- Help state and local workforce boards align with the needs of today's workforce and employers.

ABC supports an all-of-the-above approach to workforce development that levels the playing field for apprenticeship programs not registered under the U.S. Department of Labor. ABC urges you to support H.R. 6655, as amended, and the goal of this reauthorization to seek true modernization and bipartisan input to support WIOA's success.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen  
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs