



February 2, 2021

The Honorable French Hill
U.S. House of Representatives
1533 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hill,

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 members, I write to express our support for your [amendment](#) to [H.R. 447](#), the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021.

Under Title II of the bill any entity applying for a Modernizing the National Apprenticeship System for the 21st Century Grants would be required “to the extent practicable” to partner with a labor or joint labor-management organization. This provision would needlessly impose a labor requirement where none exists under current law, together with the fact that the requirement discriminates against 87.3% of U.S. construction industry that chooses not to belong to a union. Simply put, this provision will result in fewer apprentices having access to the federally registered apprenticeship system by restricting grants to labor partnerships.

ABC and its members are committed to providing apprenticeship programs for the construction industry that uphold the highest standards of safety and quality. While the amendment would prevent the requirement that an entity enter into a partnership with a labor or joint labor management organization, it would not prohibit an entity from voluntarily entering into such a partnership.

We thank you for your introduction of this critical amendment to help ensure that many in the construction industry are not unnecessarily excluded from participating in this taxpayer funded grant program to help spur the growth of apprenticeships in the United States.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President of Legislative & Political Affairs