



February 1, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McCarthy and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

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 opposition to H.R. 447, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021.

ABC and its members are committed to providing apprenticeship programs for the construction industry that uphold the highest standards of safety and quality. Unfortunately, this bill would not achieve its goal of expanding apprenticeship opportunities and disadvantages many construction businesses throughout the country, including women-, minority-, and veteran-owned small businesses that have struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic. **ABC urges members to oppose H.R. 447, and this bill will be considered a** ^{7th}
Congress.

ABC commented on this bill during the committee process in the last Congress, where several amendments to address serious concerns about the bill were voted down. A significant number of ABC members rely on federal registered apprenticeship programs to provide their employees with the skills needed to advance in their careers. Unfortunately, several provisions in the bill could prove detrimental for the construction workforce and potentially limit apprenticeship opportunities for hardworking Americans.

The bill allows a State Apprenticeship Agency to deny program registration reciprocity if a program does not meet the requirements of the state granting reciprocity. Allowing State Apprenticeship Agencies to deny registration to nationally registered programs would be a costly burden to place on these companies and is contradic
additional apprenticeships throughout the United States. ABC believes that full reciprocity should be granted to nationally approved programs seeking state registration.

ABC is also concerned with
classroom instruction. The bill requires sponsors to set forth in their apprenticeship agreement how
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required to compensate an apprentice for time spent in the classroom, a more in-depth analysis
around this provision is required, as such a requirement could have severe impacts on sponsor
capacity to provide apprenticeship opportunities.

The bill contains new language on pre-apprenticeship programs that could also limit the ability of participants to move forward with their career, specifically by requiring that any pre-apprenticeship program be carried out in partnership with a sponsor of a registered apprenticeship program. Pre-apprenticeship programs should not be limited to a pipeline register