



September 17, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg, Ranking Member Scott and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Workforce:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 67 chapters representing more than 23,000 members, I write today in strong support of [H.R.2844](#), the Michael Enzi Voluntary Protection Program Act, introduced by Rep. Diana Harshbarger, R-Tenn. This legislation makes permanent the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program and requires the agency to allocate a minimum of 5% of its annual budget to the program.

Since the Voluntary Protection Program's creation in 1982, employers, employees and labor unions have partnered with OSHA to identify potential hazards in the workplace through nonenforcement support. The voluntary program enables parties to request site-specific safety audits and rewards safe workplaces with a VPP designation. Notably, this program provides significant value to the construction industry as its mobile workforce often experiences more complex environments than general industry sites. At the same time, VPP enables OSHA to prioritize addressing bad actors while recognizing employers who go above and beyond minimum requirements.

While VPP receives widespread support, its discretionary nature threatens its longevity and creates uncertainty regarding the program's future. This uncertainty may dissuade employer participation, limiting their access to OSHA subject matter experts and resources. By making VPP permanent and directing a portion of OSHA's budget to the program, Congress can bolster workplace safety without increasing OSHA's budget.

ABC urges the committee to advance the Michael Enzi Voluntary Protection Program Act to ensure employers may continue partnering with OSHA to improve workplace safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristen Swearingen", written in a cursive style.

Kristen Swearingen  
Vice President, Government Affairs