



May 17, 2022

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

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. 7309, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022. This bill imposes unnecessary requirements on the nation's construction industry and the workforce needed to complete critical government funded projects. **ABC urges members to oppose H.R. 7309, and this bill will be considered a "KEY VOTE" for our scorecard on the 117th Congress.**

Since its bipartisan reauthorization in 2014, the WIOA has been a great asset to the construction industry. Unfortunately, the partisan proposal being voted on in the House would complicate efforts to obtain funding for workforce development efforts, create new barriers for employers, expand federal control over workforce standards, limit the rights of those seeking new jobs and employment, and mandate expanded union representation on state and local workforce boards at the expense of industry expert and employer input. The bill also favors the current, rigid registered apprenticeship program over other successful workforce development and education opportunities and fails to expand access to innovative work-based learning opportunities for many of America's workers.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the current design of WIOA is meant to help job seekers access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. While ABC supports WIOA and its critical role in filling the job shortage facing construction and a host of industries throughout the country, its reauthorization must seek true modernization and bipartisan input to ensure its continued success.

ABC believes this bill is a missed opportunity to address the ongoing workforce development challenges facing the construction industry, including a shortage of [650,000](#) workers needed in 2022 alone. Congress should recognize that more regulations and less worker freedom will make it harder to fill any potential jobs created by the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

ABC must urge a NO VOTE on H.R. 7309 and will consider it a "KEY VOTE" for our scorecard on the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President of Legislative & Political Affairs