



November 19, 2025

The Honorable Kevin Kiley
Chair
Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and
Secondary Education
Committee on Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and
Secondary Education
Committee on Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Kiley, Ranking Member Bonamici and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 67 chapters representing more than 23,000 members, I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments for the subcommittee's hearing, "[From Classroom to Career: Strengthening Skills Pathways Through CTE.](#)"

ABC's 67 chapters educate craft, safety and management professionals using innovative and flexible learning models, such as just-in-time task training, competency-based progression and work-based learning. These talent development initiatives occur alongside ABC's more than 450 federal and state government-registered apprenticeship programs that prepare American's nationwide for safe and productive work in more than 20 occupations. Further, ABC members [invested](#) an estimated \$1.6 billion in construction industry workforce development to upskill 1.3 million course attendees in 2023. This investment includes hundreds of GRAPs, independently administered by ABC member companies.

However, at current rates of participation and completion, federal and state GRAPs clearly fail to meet the construction industry's short- and long-term skilled workforce development needs. According to ABC analysis of [U.S. Department of Labor data](#) from fiscal year 2024, 290,000 apprentices were enrolled in federal and state GRAPs that yielded less than 40,000 completers—well short of the [439,000 workers needed in](#) 2025 alone.

While ABC members are deeply engaged in apprenticeship programs, training partnerships and on-the-job mentoring because these models translate classroom learning into real-world construction skills, we also strongly support efforts to expand accessible CTE opportunities that allow students—including non-college-bound youth—to move seamlessly from K-12 classrooms into career pathways in infrastructure, construction and the skilled trades. For example, enhanced alignment of secondary CTE programs with industry certifications, investments in modern equipment/training facilities and stronger collaboration among schools, industry and apprenticeship/employer sponsors will yield dividends in workforce readiness.

ABC is committed to the success of CTE as a cornerstone of workforce development—especially for the construction industry and the countless small firms that depend on it. We appreciate the subcommittee's leadership in convening this hearing and exploring how federal policy can facilitate stronger linkages between K-12 education, technical training, apprenticeships and jobs in construction. We look forward to working with the committee to advance policies that empower students, support employers and strengthen the nation's workforce.

Sincerely,

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

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President, Government Affairs