



April 8, 2024

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 68 chapters representing more than 23,000 members, I write in support of [H.R. 6655](#), A Stronger Workforce for America Act. This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the first time in nearly a decade and promotes America's economic competitiveness.

Since its passage in 1998, WIOA has been a crucial asset to the construction industry, aiding in securing funds for workforce development efforts and assisting those seeking new jobs and employment. However, since WIOA's bipartisan reauthorization in 2014, the construction industry has faced new challenges and a workforce shortage that has left many contractors throughout the country in desperate need of qualified, skilled craft professionals. To ensure the workforce is equipped to meet industry demand, ABC is committed to pursuing policies and legislation like H.R. 6655 that address these unique challenges. Most critically for ABC and our members, H.R. 6655:

- Supports an all-of-the-above approach to work-based learning, including employer-led and on-the-job workforce upskilling programs and opportunities;
- Ensures more dollars are directed toward tangible worker programs by dedicating 50% of the adult and dislocated worker funding for upskilling workers through individual training accounts, on-the-job learning and other employer-led and industry-relevant initiatives;
- Streamlines the "eligible training provider list" to ensure programs are aligned with in-demand jobs and the needs of employers to ensure better jobs and workforce opportunities;
- Allows for better evaluation of program success to ensure job seekers obtain the skills they need and safeguard valuable taxpayer dollars; and
- Improves the efficiency and effectiveness of workforce programs by increasing the cap from 10% to 60% on the amount of funds a local board may use on pay-for-performance contracts.

ABC supports an all-of-the-above approach to workforce development that levels the playing field for apprenticeship programs not registered under the U.S. Department of Labor. ABC urges you to support H.R. 6655 and the efforts of this reauthorization to seek true modernization and bipartisan input to support WIOA's success.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs