



February 3, 2021

Sean McGarvey
President

Brent Booker
Secretary-Treasurer

Newton B. Jones
Boilermakers

Kinsey M. Robinson
Roofers

James P. Hoffa
Teamsters

Terry O'Sullivan
LIUNA

Frank J. Christensen
Elevator Constructors

Kenneth E. Rigmaiden
Painters and Allied Trades

James T. Callahan
Operating Engineers

Joseph Sellers, Jr.
SMART

Lonnie R. Stephenson
IBEW

Eric M. Dean
Ironworkers

Daniel E. Stepano
*Plasterers' and
Cement Masons'*

Mark McManus
UA

Timothy J. Driscoll
BAC

Gregory T. Revard
Insulators

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the over 3 million skilled craft professionals that comprise North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), I write in support of H.R. 447, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021.

I first would like to commend the work of Chairman Scott and the bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation for their diligent efforts to maintain the integrity of the Registered Apprenticeship system, and their continued engagement with us on this bill, which reauthorizes the foundational law on which our apprenticeship programs are built. In the eight decades since the Registered Apprenticeship system was created, our nation, the economy, our industry, and technology have drastically changed. What has not changed is the need to forever protect and enshrine the rights of those individuals who enter an apprenticeship program, and H.R. 447 continues to protect the safety, well-being, and economic trajectory of the apprentice.

More than two-thirds of all civilian registered apprentices in the United States are trained in the construction industry. Among these construction apprentices, seventy-five percent receive their training at one of the 1,900 privately funded training centers in North America which are jointly administered by construction contractors and building trades unions. Investing almost \$2 billion in private capital annually in our Registered Apprenticeship programs, our joint labor-management programs have long been considered the gold standard of the Registered Apprenticeship system.

The affiliated unions of NABTU provide a debt-free ladder of opportunity to those who seek a career in the construction industry through Registered Apprenticeship. From day one, apprentices earn while they learn on a progressively increasing wage scale, with the added security of healthcare and retirement benefits, and upon completion of the program earn, on average, \$60,000 annually. Furthermore, through our ever-expanding pre-apprenticeship programs, we continue to work with our industry partners to increase the diversity of apprenticeship candidates by recruiting women, people of color and veterans.

While there are other avenues one may take to be trained in the construction crafts, for generations, the safest, most highly skilled and productive construction craft workers in the world have received their training through the Registered Apprenticeship system. H.R. 447, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, will ensure the Registered Apprenticeship system not only remains the gold standard in workforce training in the construction industry, but that it is accessible for all industries that seek a productive and highly skilled workforce. I urge swift passage of this bill and look forward to working with you to strengthen economic opportunities in every community, both large and small, across our great nation.

Sincerely,

Sean McGarvey
President

