



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

I write to you today on behalf of the Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance (SWACCA) to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 447, the "National Apprenticeship Act of 2021."

SWACCA is a national association representing construction company owners employing tens of thousands of laborers, drywall finishers, plasterers, and carpenters who perform billions of dollars of framing, drywall, ceiling, and other interior systems work annually throughout the United States. SWACCA prides itself on serving as a voice for responsible employers. Our member companies pay their workers for every hour worked, as well as overtime when their work exceeds forty hours in a week. They also provide middle-class wages, sponsor training programs, and offer retirement and health benefits.

As signatory employers, we have a long history of working with our union partners to create and sustain rigorous, high-quality registered apprenticeship programs. Our members understand that registered apprenticeship programs are one of the key factors in ensuring they can continue to provide the high quality, efficient construction services that enable them to be profitable while providing jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits. As such, we appreciate you and your Committee's efforts to maintain and strengthen the nation's registered apprenticeship system.

Your legislation would inject much needed funding with the aim of expanding access to registered apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, and youth apprenticeships across the country. This new funding will serve as a critical supplement to the investment our members make to support these important programs. H.R. 447 would also codify and streamline existing standards for registered apprenticeship programs and expand those standards to cover pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs. Importantly, H.R. 447 also includes provisions to codify the role of the Office of Apprenticeship at the Department of Labor. It also strengthens the standing of the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships within the Department of Labor so that it can

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provide seasoned, expert recommendations to the Secretary of Labor on how to improve the nation's apprenticeship programs.

Thank you again for your efforts to expand and strengthen the nation's registered apprenticeship programs. We look forward to working with you to swiftly enact this critically important legislation into law. If I can be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Casabona", is written over the typed name.

Scott Casabona
President

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