



May 4, 2023

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Scott and Rep. Fitzpatrick:

I write today on behalf of the Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance (SWACCA) to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 2851, the “National Apprenticeship Act of 2023.”

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 members are high-road job creators, who 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, offer retirement and health benefits, and fund unemployment, workers compensation and other social safety net programs.

As signatory employers, SWACCA’s members have an extensive history of working with our union partners to create and sustain rigorous, high-quality registered apprenticeship programs because we know that quality apprenticeship programs are vital to the continued growth and success of the construction industry. Registered apprenticeship programs are an integral part of providing high quality and efficient construction services that enable SWACCA contractors to be profitable while providing jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits. That is why we appreciate your efforts to maintain and strengthen the nation’s registered apprenticeship system.

H.R. 2851 will expand access to registered apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, and youth apprenticeships across the country. Your legislation provides a critical supplement to the investment our members already make to support these important programs. It also ensures consistent quality standards and worker protections across all registered apprenticeship programs, workforce development efforts, and apprenticeship readiness training opportunities so participants in these programs will have the skills necessary to succeed. Importantly, H.R. 2851 also includes provisions to codify the role of the Office of Apprenticeship at the Department of Labor (DOL) and strengthens the standing of the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships

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at DOL so that it can provide expert recommendations to the Secretary of Labor to improve the nation's apprenticeship programs.

We appreciate your efforts to expand and strengthen the nation's registered apprenticeship programs. We look forward to working with you to swiftly enact this important legislation into law. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert Klugh
President

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