



# NCCA Monthly Report August 2021

Last Updated: September 08, 2021

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## On The Hill

Despite the summer recess, August was a busy month for Lobbyit in Washington. Leadership in the House of Representatives called the House back into session briefly on August 23rd, temporarily breaking House members away from their recess period. The House voted to move forward with the Senate-approved \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package, which includes so-called “soft infrastructure” provisions related to climate change, workforce, education, and more.

House leaders utilized a procedural workaround to avoid a lengthy battle and a separate vote on the budget resolution itself, but the process revealed a clear rift between Democrats over how far Congress should go in reshaping the role of the federal government through the reconciliation process. Moderate Democrats wanted to vote first on the Senate-passed, bipartisan infrastructure bill instead of following through with Speaker Pelosi’s well-established two-track strategy, where infrastructure and the broader spending bill would advance in tandem. In a compromise, House Democrats committed to a soft deadline for final vote on the bipartisan infrastructure package by September 27th. However, our analysis is that meeting this deadline with a still uncertain path forward on budget reconciliation is highly unlikely, and the deadline will likely be extended.

## Lobbyit Update

### UPDATE

Lobbyit has been closely tracking the budget reconciliation process on NCCA’s behalf and gathering intelligence around what may be included. We do not have bill text yet, but the line-by-line framework includes instructions that Congress fund workforce development and job training programs. Based on our recent conversations with staff on the Hill, we expect that the reconciliation bill will include provisions from the Biden Administration’s American Jobs Plan. It is also quite likely that Congress will implement language from key workforce development legislation such as the National Apprenticeship Act, which NCCA endorsed earlier this year.

The American Jobs Plan would allocate a \$48 billion investment in workforce development and worker protection, including funding for registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs. The plan recognizes the need for investments to expand career and technical education (CTE) and workforce readiness programs at the K-12 level. A new Dislocated Workers Program and sector-based training would receive a \$40 billion investment into training workers with skills in high-demand industries such as clean energy, manufacturing, and caregiving. This provision also highlights the importance of wraparound services such as career counseling in ensuring the success of the program. Our team will continue to gather information on exactly which provisions of the American Jobs Plan are included in the final reconciliation package.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As Congress returns from recess, we will be working closely with the staff of Congressmen Thompson and Langevin to re-introduce a Congressional resolution declaring November as National Career Development Month. With data from the Harris Poll being released later this month, we will be working closely with NCCA to develop materials and get this into the hands of legislators. Unfortunately, with the cancellation of this year’s Career Practitioner Institute, we had to postpone our plans to host a Hill Day here in DC; however, our team is looking forward to meeting with the NCCA board in Alexandria this October, and will be presenting virtually at the November event.

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## Bills

[National Career Development Association \(25\)](#)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 447	Received In The Senate And Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 02 25	In Senate	Support	High	74.8% 70.3%

#### Title

National Apprenticeship Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-01-25

#### Description

National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 This bill provides statutory authority for the registered apprenticeship program within the Department of Labor and for related grant programs. The bill provides statutory authority for the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within Labor. The OA's responsibilities include (1) supporting the development of apprenticeship models; (2) recognizing qualified state apprenticeship agencies, and operating apprenticeship offices in states without a recognized agency; (3) providing technical assistance to state agencies; (4) periodically updating requirements for each occupation in the apprenticeship program and determining whether to approve new occupations for the program; (5) promoting greater diversity in the national apprenticeship system; and (6) awarding grants provided by this bill. The bill also establishes in statute the responsibilities of state apprenticeship agencies and offices, including (1) providing technical assistance to stakeholders, (2) resolving complaints, (3) establishing state performance goals, and (4) including in its written plan a description of how its apprenticeship programs align with the skills needs of the state's employers. The OA shall enter into an agreement with the Department of Education to promote the integration and alignment of apprenticeship programs with secondary, postsecondary, and adult education. The OA shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to (1) expand national apprenticeship system programs, including by expanding pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs; (2) encourage employer participation; and (3) strengthen alignment between the apprenticeship system and education providers. The bill provides statutory authority for criteria for various programs, including (1) quality standards for apprenticeships, (2) requirements for apprenticeship agreements between a program sponsor and an apprentice, and (3) acceptable uses for grant funds awarded by this bill. The bill also provides statutory authority for the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships. The committee's duties shall include advising the OA on matters relating to this bill and providing recommendations on topics such as increasing the participation of populations not traditionally involved in the national apprenticeship system. Labor shall engage an independent entity to conduct research on ways to improve the management and effectiveness of national apprenticeship system programs.

#### Primary Sponsors

Bobby Scott

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 1886	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 05 27	In Senate	None	None	24.6% 65.2%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-05-27

Apprenticeships to College Act

**Primary Sponsors**

Amy Klobuchar

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 3342	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 05 19	In House	None	None	7.7% 76.9%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-05-19

Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021

**Description**

Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Labor to award grants to certain national youth-serving organizations for comprehensive workforce readiness programs provided to youth that take place before or after school, during summer vacation or holiday, or on the weekend (i.e., out-of-school-time programs). Such grants must be used to develop and implement youth workforce readiness programs, including for activities such as on-the-job and leadership opportunities, internships, and other supportive services. The bill also requires local workforce development boards to establish youth councils as subgroups of the boards.

**Primary Sponsors**

Josh Harder

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 1696	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 05 19	In Senate	None	None	48.6% 72.3%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-05-19

Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021

**Primary Sponsors**

Tina Smith

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 1534	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 05 10	In Senate	None	None	23.5% 68.2%

**Title** REO Act of 2021 **Introduction Date:** 2021-05-10

**Description**

REO Act of 2021 This bill establishes the Reentry Employment Opportunities Program to make grants for the purpose of providing job training opportunities to formerly incarcerated adults, youths, and young adults who have dropped out of school. Grants are awarded to entities such as nonprofit organizations, organizations serving women or a minority population, and state and local governments to carry out projects related to apprenticeship programs, occupational skills education, on-the-job training, work experience, job referrals, basic skills remediation, educational services, and work readiness activities for such individuals.

**Primary Sponsors**

Gary Peters

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 1026	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 03 25	In Senate	Monitor	Medium	29.0% 72.7%

**Title** American Apprenticeship Act **Introduction Date:** 2021-03-25

**Description**

American Apprenticeship Act This bill directs the Department of Labor to make grants to assist states in carrying out projects that defray the cost of instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs. Labor shall (1) establish performance measures and an evaluation system for such grant program; and (2) identify in-demand occupations that lack the use of qualified apprenticeship programs, analyze the use of such program model in those occupations, and report on such analysis to states and Congress.

**Primary Sponsors**

Amy Klobuchar

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 2174	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 03 23	In House	None	None	7.7% 77.2%

**Title**

Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-03-23

**Description**

Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021 This bill establishes a grant program through which the Department of Education may award funds to eligible partnerships to support rural postsecondary education and economic growth and development in rural communities. A grant recipient must be a partnership whose members represent at least three designated types of organizations, specifically (1) a local educational agency or educational service agency serving a rural area, (2) an institution of higher education (IHE), (3) a regional economic development entity, or (4) a rural community-serving organization with demonstrated success supporting rural students in accessing higher education and attaining degrees. A grant recipient must use awarded funds to carry out no fewer than two specified activities, namely (1) improving postsecondary enrollment rates for rural secondary school students, (2) increasing enrollment and completion rates of rural nontraditional students in degree programs at IHEs, (3) creating or strengthening academic programs at rural-serving IHEs to prepare graduates to enter into high-need occupations in the regional and local economies, or (4) generating local and regional economic development that creates employment opportunities for rural students with postsecondary degrees.

**Primary Sponsors**

Elise Stefanik

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 885	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions Sponsor Introductory Remarks On Measure Cr S 1674 2021 03 22	In Senate	None	None	3.9% 74.2%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-03-22  
 Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021

**Description**

Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021 This bill establishes a grant program through which the Department of Education may award funds to eligible partnerships to support rural postsecondary education and economic growth and development in rural communities. A grant recipient must be a partnership whose members represent at least three designated types of organizations, specifically (1) a local educational agency or educational service agency serving a rural area, (2) an institution of higher education (IHE), (3) a regional economic development entity, or (4) a rural community-serving organization with demonstrated success supporting rural students in accessing higher education and attaining degrees. A grant recipient must use awarded funds to carry out no fewer than two specified activities, namely (1) improving postsecondary enrollment rates for rural secondary school students, (2) increasing enrollment and completion rates of rural nontraditional students in degree programs at IHEs, (3) creating or strengthening academic programs at rural-serving IHEs to prepare graduates to enter into high-need occupations in the regional and local economies, or (4) generating local and regional economic development that creates employment opportunities for rural students with postsecondary degrees.

**Primary Sponsors**

Susan Collins

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 1402	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 26	In House	None	None	4.5% 41.6%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-26  
 More Choice for Career Training Act of 2021

**Description**

More Choice for Career Training Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Education to develop an alternative certification program that allows students to use Pell Grants for enrollment in educational programs that have existed for at least five years and would not otherwise be eligible. The alternative certification program may not require accreditation, state authorization, minimum instructional hours, or minimum classroom time for an educational program to be eligible.

**Primary Sponsors**

John Carter

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 477	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance 2021 02 25	In Senate	Monitor	Medium	4.7% 78.1%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-25  
Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act of 2021

**Description**  
Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act of 2021 This bill extends existing and establishes new tax credits that assist the hospitality and restaurant industry. Specifically, it \* allows a convention and trade show restart tax credit; \* extends the employee retention tax credit through 2021; \* suspends for taxable years 2021 through 2022, the limitation on entertainment expenses related to a trade or business, \* allows a restaurant and dining restart credit for businesses closed or forced to reduce services due to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019); \* allows a 50% tax credit for travel expenditures; and \* allows a tax credit for unmerchantable inventory for the period between December 31, 2019, and before April 1, 2021.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Catherine Cortez Masto

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 1225	Referred To The Subcommittee On Immigration And Citizenship 2021 04 28	In House	None	None	6.6% 82.8%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-23  
National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act of 2021

**Description**  
National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act of 2021 This bill requires each national security agency to report on its diversity and inclusion efforts. The bill defines diversity as diversity of persons based on gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and other demographic categories. It also requires each such agency to \* develop a system to collect and analyze applicant employment data to identify areas for improvement in attracting diverse talent, with emphasis on senior and management positions; \* conduct periodic interviews with a representative cross-section of the national security workforce to obtain workplace information; \* sponsor workforce members to participate in a Senior Executive Service candidate development program or similar program; \* implement performance and advancement requirements for the workforce; \* create opportunities for senior personnel to participate in outreach events and to discuss issues relating to diversity and inclusion; and \* expand training on bias in the workplace and flexible work policies. The bill encourages agencies to expand professional development and career advancement opportunities that support their missions and to seek a diverse and talented pool of employment applicants by reaching out to educational organizations and professional associations.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Gerry Connolly

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 396	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 02 23	In Senate	Support	High	39.7% 55.9%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-23

Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2021

**Description**

Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Labor to implement a program to award grants to workforce intermediaries (certain national, regional, state, or local entities that facilitate the establishment of registered apprenticeship programs) to enable them to engage a variety of stakeholders to support, develop, and implement registered apprenticeship programs.

**Primary Sponsors**

Chris Coons

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 854	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 04	In House	Monitor	Medium	6.5% 48.4%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-04

Youth Corps Act of 2021

**Primary Sponsors**

Freddie Wilson

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 200	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 02 03	In Senate	Support	High	4.3% 57.5%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-03

Relaunching America's Workforce Act

**Primary Sponsors**

Patty Murray



State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 702	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 02	In House	None	None	5.4% 72.2%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

To direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to develop, administer, and evaluate early childhood education apprenticeships, and for other purposes.

**Description**

This bill requires the Department of Labor to award grants to states to develop, administer, and evaluate registered apprenticeship programs focused on early childhood education.

**Primary Sponsors**

Brett Guthrie

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 703	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 02	In House	Monitor	Medium	4.5% 67.8%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Apprenticeship Futures for All Act

**Description**

Apprenticeship Futures for All Act This bill requires the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within the Department of Labor to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities if the eligible entity is a qualified intermediary to (1) support national industry and equity intermediaries in establishing or expanding sector-based partnerships to support the delivery or expansion of programs under the national apprenticeship system to significant scale in the United States, or (2) serve programs under the national apprenticeship system in a local or regional setting. The delivery or expansion of programs under the national apprenticeship system shall be (1) in key sectors, including manufacturing, information technology, cyber security, health care, insurance and finance, energy, hospitality, retail, construction, and other sectors identified by the OA as targeted for expansion under the national apprenticeship system; or (2) for nontraditional apprenticeship populations, women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and individuals impacted by the criminal or juvenile justice system.

**Primary Sponsors**

Pramila Jayapal

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 720	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 02	In House	None	None	4.5% 81.8%

**Title**

CHANCE in TECH Act

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

**Description**

CHampioning Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in TECHNOLOGY Act or the CHANCE in TECH Act This bill requires the Department of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries to promote the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector. The Department of Education (ED) may issue CHANCE in TECH Awards for 21st Century Schools to secondary schools or junior or community colleges that demonstrate high achievement in providing students necessary skills to compete in the 21st century workforce. In making an award, ED must consider the availability of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), career and technical education, and computer technology courses at the schools.

**Primary Sponsors**

Seth Moulton

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 691	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 02	In House	Monitor	Medium	4.5% 71.7%

**Title**

Expanding Opportunity through Pre-Apprenticeships Act

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

**Description**

Expanding Opportunity through Pre-Apprenticeships Act This bill requires the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within the Department of Labor to create a plan to expand participation in pre-apprenticeship programs for underrepresented populations and individuals with barriers to employment, and requires Labor to award related grants to certain eligible entities (e.g., community-based organizations, pre-apprenticeship sponsors, and employers for an in-demand industry or occupation). Specifically, the bill \* establishes pre-apprenticeship program standards and requirements; \* directs Labor to collect data on pre-apprenticeship programs, using workforce innovation and opportunity indicators of performance, on how programs resources are spent, and on the diversity and equal opportunity in apprenticeship programs; \* directs the OA in partnership with state apprenticeship agencies to conduct research in state labor markets and create a plan to expand participation in registered pre-apprenticeship programs for nontraditional populations or individuals with barriers to employment such as youth, women, people of color, long-term unemployed, individuals with disabilities, individuals with substance abuse issues, individuals impacted by the criminal justice system, and veterans; and \* provides grants to serve participants from nontraditional apprenticeship populations with preference to women, people of color, veterans, those who have been impacted by the youth or adult criminal justice system, and individuals with barriers to employment between the ages of 16 and 24.

**Primary Sponsors**

Tony Cardenas

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 683	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 02 02	In House	Monitor	Medium	7.8% 70.5%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-02  
Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2021

**Description**  
Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Labor to promote diversity and ensure equal opportunity to participate in programs for apprentices, youth apprentices, and pre-apprentices by \* taking steps to promote diversity in apprenticeable occupations under the national apprenticeship system, especially in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors and occupations in areas with high percentages of low-income individuals; \* ensuring programs under the national apprenticeship system adopt and implement policies for equal opportunity in such programs, do not engage in prohibited intimidation or retaliation, and are subject to enforcement action; and \* supporting the recruitment, employment, and retention of nontraditional apprenticeship populations in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations, including women, people of color, individuals with disabilities, individuals impacted by the criminal and juvenile justice system, and individuals with barriers to employment.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Alma Adams

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 186	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 02 02	In Senate	None	None	4.9% 69.7%

**Title** Introduction Date: 2021-02-02  
Early Educators Apprenticeship Act

**Description**  
Early Educators Apprenticeship Act This bill establishes a grant program to award to partnerships—which may include employers, institutions of higher education, labor unions, and community-based organizations—the federal share of the costs of apprenticeship programs focused on early childhood education.

**Primary Sponsors**  
Todd Young

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 636	Referred To The Subcommittee On Immigration And Citizenship 2021 03 22	In House	Monitor	Medium	7.8% 53.7%

**Title** PARTNERS Act **Introduction Date:** 2021-02-01

**Description**

Promoting Apprenticeships through Regional Training Networks for Employers Required Skills Act of 2021 or the PARTNERS Act This bill establishes a grant program to promote registered apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of eligible partnerships.

**Primary Sponsors**

Suzanne Bonamici

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 602	Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2021 01 28	In House	Monitor	Medium	15.4% 70.5%

**Title** Relaunching America's Workforce Act **Introduction Date:** 2021-01-28

**Description**

Relaunching America's Workforce Act This bill establishes several grant programs to address employment, the workforce, and education access in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. The Department of Labor must provide grants in response to the COVID-19 national emergency to \* provide training and employment for dislocated, unemployed, and underemployed workers; \* support youth employment; \* establish workforce information systems improvements; \* provide reentry employment opportunities for justice-involved youth and young adults; and \* create or expand apprenticeship programs. Programs directed towards assisting Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farmworkers may be extended. The Department of Education must provide grants to expand the capacity of adult education providers to prioritize serving adults with low-literacy or numeracy levels negatively impacted by the COVID-19 national emergency, and to improve or expand career and technical education programs and programs of study to respond to state and local needs as a result of the COVID-19 national emergency.

**Primary Sponsors**

Bobby Scott

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 52	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 01 26	In Senate	Support	High	3.6% 54.9%

**Title** Gateway to Careers Act of 2021 **Introduction Date:** 2021-01-26

**Description**  
 Gateway to Careers Act of 2021 This bill establishes a career pathway grant program through which the Department of Education must award competitive grants to certain public institutions of higher education and postsecondary technical education schools. Grant recipients must use these funds to (1) carry out activities that support the development and implementation of career pathway programs, and (2) provide support services to students engaged in career pathway programs.

**Primary Sponsors**  
 Maggie Hassan

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 487	Referred To The Subcommittee On Nutrition Oversight And Department Operations 2021 02 24	In House	Monitor	Medium	5.4% 72.5%

**Title** Revitalize and Expand SNAP Education and Training for America's Future Act **Introduction Date:** 2021-01-25

**Primary Sponsors**  
 Abigail Spanberger

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
US	HR 1319	Became Public Law No 117 2 2021 03 11	Enacted	None	None

**Title**

Introduction Date: 2021-02-24

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

**Description**

This bill provides additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

TITLE I--COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND

FORESTRY Subtitle A--Agriculture (Sec. 1001) This section provides funding for FY2021 to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to (1) purchase food and agricultural commodities; (2) purchase and distribute agricultural commodities (including fresh produce, dairy, seafood, eggs, and meat) to individuals in need; (3) provide grants and loans for small or mid-sized food processors or distributors, seafood processing facilities and processing vessels, farmers markets, producers, or other organizations to respond to COVID-19; and (4) provide grants, loans, and other assistance to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. The section also requires USDA to use specified amounts of the funding to (1) conduct animal surveillance and monitoring related to COVID-19; and (2) reduce overtime inspection costs borne by federally inspected small and very small meat, poultry, or egg processors. (Sec. 1002) This section provides funding for, and directs USDA to establish, an emergency pilot program to provide grants to certain applicants for rural health care and other rural development needs related to COVID-19. (Sec. 1003) This section provides funding for necessary administrative expenses associated with carrying out this subtitle. (Sec. 1004) This section provides funding through FY2022 to the Office of the Inspector General of USDA for audits, investigations, and other oversight activities of projects and activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Sec. 1005) This section provides funding for USDA to pay off outstanding farm loan debts of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. (Sec. 1006) This section provides funding for USDA to address historical discrimination and disparities in the agriculture sector. Specifically, USDA must use specified amounts to \* provide outreach, mediation, training, and assistance on issues concerning food, agriculture, agricultural credit, agricultural extension, rural development, or nutrition to certain socially disadvantaged groups, including socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners; \* provide grants and loans to improve land access for such groups; \* fund one or more equity commissions to address racial equity issues within USDA and its programs; \* support and supplement agricultural research, education, and extension, as well as scholarships and programs that provide internships and pathways to federal employment; and \* provide financial assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers, ranch...

(click bill link to see more).

**Primary Sponsors**

John Yarmuth

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