

# NCDA Monthly Report January 2022

Last Updated: January 24, 2022

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## On The Hill

Happy New Year! Coming back from the holidays, the major end-of-the-year priority for the Biden Administration, the Build Back Better reconciliation spending package, appears to be on indefinite hold after failing to garner 60 votes in the Senate before the New Year. Congressional leaders appear to be pivoting towards other priorities.

Leading members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are meeting this week to resolve long-running disagreements over funding for FY22 spending programs. The federal government is currently funded until February 18th. These members are quietly trying to settle disagreements over funding increases for defense spending and certain controversial policy riders. Once the FY22 spending is resolved, Congress will likely begin the budgeting cycle for FY2023.

Other current priorities for Congressional Democrats and the Administration currently include voting rights legislation, continuing to deal with the COVID pandemic, and a possible additional COVID relief package for restaurants and other industries.

## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization

As we approached the holidays, Lobbyit had two conversations with key Education and Labor staffers about the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA is a landmark piece of legislation that funds federal programs which help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

The goal for Education and Labor Committee leadership on the House side is to move forward with WIOA reauthorization this year. There is bipartisan consensus on this, however, there are concerns that the appetite to tackle this is lower in the Senate. Regardless of whether WIOA reauthorization passes this year, negotiations will be moving forward over the next few months and offices have begun to identify "marker bills" with provisions they'd like included in the larger WIOA package.

In our meeting with staff for Representative GT Thompson, we discussed NCDA's priorities and the legislative timeline. We highlighted the need to include career counseling funding via provisions in the Counseling for Career Choice Act (which Rep. Thompson sponsored), as well as rising priorities for NCDA such as intern pay.

Our conversation with Rep. Elise Stefanik's team was focused on a bill that her office has identified as a top priority to be included in WIOA, the Employer Directed Skills Act. The bill would empower companies and industries to determine the skills their workforce needs, streamline the process for workers to access skills development, and allow businesses to share costs of qualified reskilling programs with the federal government. Rep. Stefanik has asked for NCDA's endorsement of this legislation. Rep. Stefanik and Rep. Thompson will both be heavily involved in WIOA negotiations, and we anticipate that these are just the first of several meetings on the topic.

## Other Updates

Outside of WIOA, another topic getting a lot of attention on the Hill is workforce shortages and career development within certain high need fields: the two primary areas where we've seen a high volume of legislation dropped and statements made by Congress are K-12 education and healthcare. There is a chance that sector-specific workforce development legislation for these two areas could gain significant traction this year.

## Looking Ahead

We will continue to foster strong relationships with House Education and Labor staff who are working on WIOA reauthorization. Our team will also be working with NCDA to determine whether the association will be endorsing the Employer Directed Skills Act and which other policy priorities we need to flag to Congress in the context of WIOA and federal workforce programs. We will also be gathering information on the status of the education and workforce provisions within the Build Back Better Act in order to determine whether any of these items will be passable outside of the larger package.

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## Bills

## National Career Development Association (28)

Bill Number

HR 6255

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 12 13

Status

In House

### Title

Employer-Directed Skills Act

Introduction Date: 2021-12-13

### Primary Sponsors

Elise Stefanik

Bill Number

HR 5376

Last Action

Motion To Reconsider Laid On The Table 2021  
11 19

Status

In Senate

### Title

Build Back Better Act

Introduction Date: 2021-09-27

### Description

This bill provides funding, establishes programs, and otherwise modifies provisions relating to a broad array of areas, including education, labor, child care, health care, taxes, immigration, and the environment. (The bill is commonly referred to as the Build Back Better Act.) For example, the bill provides funding for \* management of the National Forest System; \* job placement and career services; \* safe drinking water, energy-efficiency, and weatherization projects; \* electric vehicles and zero-emission, heavy-duty vehicles; \* public health infrastructure and supply chain resiliency; \* housing, rental, and homeowner assistance programs; \* cybersecurity programs; \* tribal infrastructure, housing, environmental, and health programs; \* wildfire prevention, drought relief, conservation efforts, and climate change research; \* small business assistance and development; \* transit services and clean energy projects in low-income communities; and \* infrastructure and administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, the bill establishes programs to provide \* up to six semesters of free community college, \* free child care for children under the age of six, \* free universal preschool services, and \* health benefits for eligible individuals who reside in states that have not expanded Medicaid. The bill also includes provisions that \* establish a methane fee for certain petroleum and natural gas facilities; \* expand Medicare to cover dental, hearing, and vision care; \* provide certain aliens with a path to permanent resident status (e.g., those who entered the United States as minors); \* provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave; \* restructure and increase the tax rates for certain corporations and high-income individuals (e.g., individuals with income over \$400,000); and \* require the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate maximum prices for certain brand-name drugs under Medicare.

### Primary Sponsors

John Yarmuth

Bill Number

S 1886

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021  
05 27

Status

In Senate

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**Title**

Apprenticeships to College Act

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

**Description**

Apprenticeships to College Act This bill requires the Department of Labor to enter into an interagency agreement with the Department of Education to promote and support integration and alignment of programs under the national apprenticeship system with secondary, 2- and 4-year postsecondary, and adult education.

**Primary Sponsors**

Amy Klobuchar

Bill Number

HR 3342

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 05 19

Status

In House

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**Title**

Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021

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

**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

Bill Number

S 1696

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021  
05 19

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021

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

**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**

Tina Smith

Bill Number

S 1534

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021  
05 10

Status

In Senate

**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

Bill Number

HR 1225

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On  
Immigration And Citizenship 2021 04 28

Status

In House

**Title**

National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act of 2021

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

**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

Bill Number

HR 2733

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 04 21

Status

In House

**Title**

Counseling for Career Choice Act

**Introduction Date:** 2021-04-21

**Description**

Counseling for Career Choice Act This bill directs the Department of Education to award competitive grants to state educational agencies and, through them, subgrants to eligible entities (e.g., local educational agencies) to implement comprehensive school career counseling programs.

**Primary Sponsors**

Jim Langevin

Bill Number

S 1026

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021  
03 25

Status

In Senate

**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

Bill Number

HR 2174

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 03 23

Status

In House

**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

Bill Number

S 885

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions  
Sponsor Introductory Remarks On Measure Cr  
S 1674 2021 03 22

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-03-22

**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

Bill Number

HR 636

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On  
Immigration And Citizenship 2021 03 22

Status

In House

**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

**Title**

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-24**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

Bill Number

HR 1402

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 02 26

Status

In House

**Title**

More Choice for Career Training Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-26

**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

Bill Number

S 477

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Finance 2021 02 25

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-25

**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

**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

Bill Number

HR 487

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Nutrition  
Oversight And Department Operations 2021  
02 24

Status

In House

**Title**

Revitalize and Expand SNAP Education and Training for America's Future Act

**Introduction Date:** 2021-01-25

**Description**

Revitalize and Expand SNAP Education and Training for America's Future Act or the RESET for America's Future Act This bill increases federal reimbursement for certain state employment and training programs under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program). The Department of Agriculture (USDA) must issue certain guidelines that permit a state to submit for full and expedited federal reimbursement of any costs incurred through SNAP employment and training programs that meet certain criteria (e.g., programs with proven positive outcomes), with no match requirement. USDA must temporarily reimburse each state 100% of costs incurred in connection with transportation costs and other expenses related to participation in such programs through the end of the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency or two years, whichever is later. It must also reimburse each state 100% of costs incurred to build, modernize, or improve state and local data systems related to SNAP employment and training programs. Further, USDA must commission a thorough national assessment of its SNAP employment and training programs to develop a strategy for continuous improvement to the programs.

**Primary Sponsors**

Abigail Spanberger

Bill Number

S 396

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021  
02 23

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2021

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

**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

Bill Number

HR 854

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 02 04

Status

In House

**Title**

Youth Corps Act of 2021

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

**Description**

Youth Corps Act of 2021 This bill authorizes the Department of Labor to make grants to public or private nonprofit agencies or organizations to carry out Youth Corps programs that utilize the Youth Corps model to provide low-income youth (age 16 and not more than age 24) with education and work readiness training. The term Youth Corps model means a youth education and training program for which an eligible entity provides eligible youth with stipended or paid work experience and basic and technical skills training leading to (1) enrollment in postsecondary education or training, (2) attainment of an industry-recognized certification or credential, (3) meaningful employment in the economy of the 21st century, or (4) military service.

**Primary Sponsors**

Freddie Wilson

Bill Number

S 200

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021  
02 03

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Relaunching America's Workforce Act

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

**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 system-involved youth or young adults, formerly incarcerated youths or adults, and former offenders; 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**

Patty Murray

Bill Number

HR 702

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 02 02

Status

In House

**Title**

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

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

**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

Bill Number

HR 703

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 02 02

Status

In House

**Title**

Apprenticeship Futures for All Act

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

**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

Bill Number

HR 720

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 02 02

Status

In House

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**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

**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

Bill Number

HR 683

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 02 02

Status

In House

**Title**

Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2021

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

**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

Bill Number

S 186

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021  
02 02

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Early Educators Apprenticeship Act

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

**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

Bill Number

HR 602

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Education And Labor 2021 01 28

Status

In House

**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

Bill Number

S 52

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021  
01 26

Status

In Senate

**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

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