

NCDA Monthly Report July 2022

Last Updated: August 04, 2022

On The Hill

July was an action-packed month on the Hill as Congress worked hard to wrap up several high priority agenda items ahead of the August recess. With negotiations stalling on the Bipartisan Innovation Act, Congress was urged by the national security community to act with urgency to pass the CHIPS Act portion of the bill (which funds domestic semiconductor manufacturing) as a standalone. Congress worked quickly to pass a package which included the CHIPS Act as well as several other research and development and education provisions from the broader USICA/COMPETES Act negotiations that had bipartisan support.

Congress continues to move through the 2023 budget cycle, with the House passing their suite of appropriations bills in July. The House-passed bills had particularly significant increases to the budget for the Department of Education. The Senate released their draft bill text last week, giving us a fuller picture of the differences and similarities between the two chambers. The Senate is expected to move forward with these bills after the August recess. Given the fiscal year is set to end on September 30, our team has been told that they will first pass a continuing resolution which will push a final vote on the 2023 budget to after the November election.

Another big announcement that came in this month confirmed what we had already been told: Senator Manchin and Senator Schumer had been negotiating for several months on an updated budget reconciliation package similar to last year's unpassed Build Back Better Act. The two came to an agreement on a slimmer package that includes support for certain Medicaid reforms, tax changes, and climate provisions. If the package can win support from all 50 Democrats (including Senator Sinema of Arizona, a key swing vote), we expect this to move quickly, with the House potentially returning during August to vote on the updated bill.

Bipartisan Innovation Act

With the Bipartisan Innovation Act Conference Committee making little progress on a final agreement, Congressional leadership moved to pass a smaller, but still nearly 1000-page, bill which included provisions with broad support. The new "CHIPS-Plus" package includes many similar provisions to the original House-passed America COMPETES Act and Senate-passed US Innovation and Competition Act, minus trade and climate initiatives.

Division A of the bill appropriates over \$52 billion over five years in incentives to develop semiconductor manufacturing capacity in the United States.

The largest section, Division B, is rooted in the science titles of the America COMPETES Act and USICA. However, those bills had two different approaches to boosting and re-prioritizing federal support for scientific research and development. The final package pulls from both approaches and authorizes over \$100 billion in additional science funding at NSF, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Commerce.

In particular, the Act establishes a new NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, whose mission is "to advance research and development, technology deployment, and related solutions to address United States societal, national, and geostrategic challenges, for the benefit all Americans." The bill authorizes \$20 billion over five years for the new Directorate. The directorate will focus on key technologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum, and synthetic biology, among others. Support for fellowships and scholarships and enhancing research capacity for HBCUs and MSIs is also addressed.

\$10 billion is authorized for the development of at least 20 regional technology and innovation hub programs to support domestic leadership in sectors critical to national and economic security. The goal is to promote regional economic development and resilience (especially within rural and underserved communities), expand advanced domestic manufacturing, and address the intersection of emerging technologies and regional or national challenges. Of the 20 hubs established, one-third must significantly benefit small and rural communities, and one third must benefit states or territories benefiting from the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ESPCoR) of the NSF.

The bill authorizes new and existing research initiatives through the Department of Energy relating to basic energy science, biological and environmental research, advance scientific computing research, fusion energy research, high energy physics and nuclear physics. Within the education space, the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act is amended to now authorize programs that foster collaboration between teachers at elementary schools and secondary schools, students and faculty at institutions of higher education, early-career researchers, and the National Laboratories.

Within NSF, NTIA, and NASA, the bill authorizes \$13 billion for scholarships, fellowships, and traineeships to foster STEM education and create workers in critical fields, including to establishing an artificial intelligence scholarship-for-service program, a national network for microelectronics education, and cybersecurity workforce development programs.

Expansion of rural STEM education is also included in the package. The bill provides for research and development to increase access to STEM education opportunities in rural K-12 schools and to provide teachers with the resources they need to teach more effectively.

Some House Republicans withdrew their support on the eve of the final vote after Senate Democrats unveiled plans to quickly pass an unrelated partisan reconciliation bill, but regardless of this, the CHIPS-Plus package passed with bipartisan support in July. The President is set to sign the bill into law in the coming days.

COTA Act

The COTA Act has gained one additional cosponsor, Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV). While there is not yet a clear path forward for the bill this Congress, we continue to build support and anticipate that this momentum will be helpful in getting the provision included in broader WIOA reauthorization early next year.

We also continue to push for additional cosponsors for this legislation. This month, our team met with Rep. Susanne Bonamici (D-OR), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee and a key voice for workforce development in Congress about the bill and the importance of career development.

September Planning

We look forward to welcoming NCDA leadership to DC this summer to present the Legislative Award to Nick Rockwell, Legislative Director for Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA). Nick's work behind the scenes has been crucial to the Congressman's efforts to raise support for career development in Congress. While the group is in town, we also hope to set up a few additional Hill meetings with key stakeholders on the House Education and Labor Committee and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

Bills

Bill Number

HR 8195

HR 7309

Last Action

Status

In House

Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2022 06 23

Title COTA Act

Primary Sponsors G.T. Thompson

Introduction Date: 2022-06-23

State Bill Number

Last Action

In Senate

Received In The Senate And Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2022 05 18

Title Introduction Date: 2022-03-31

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022 Description

US

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022 This bill reauthorizes through FY2028 and expands programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The bill also revises workforce investment, vocational rehabilitation, employment, training, and literacy programs for eligible individuals. For example, the bill * increases workforce representation on state and local workforce investment boards from 20% to 30%; * reworks one-stop center infrastructure funding by requiring costs to be covered by state allocations of WIOA funds; * establishes subsidized youth employment programs that include work-readiness training and mentoring; * eliminates a requirement that the Department of Labor ensure that individuals participating in WIOA activities comply with Selective Service laws; * modifies the allotment of youth workforce investment funds to states; * expands the Job Corps program, including by serving individuals in outlying areas and relaxing age requirements; * establishes grants to expand training programs through industry or sector partnerships; * expands grants for integrated English literacy and civics education to outlying areas; and * expands Wagner-Peyser employment services to the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. The bill also provides statutory authority for Labor to award * competitive grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to improve employment and training outcomes and reduce recidivism of justice-involved youth; and * competitive grants for states to create workforce longitudinal administrative databases.

Primary Sponsors

Bobby Scott

Bill Number HR 4521

Last Action

Message On Senate Action Sent To The House 2022 05 05

Introduction Date: 2021-07-19

Status

Passed Senate

Title

United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021

Description

United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 This bill addresses U.S. technology and communications, foreign relations and national security, domestic manufacturing, education, trade, and other matters. Among other provisions, the bill * provides funding for FY2022-FY2026 to support U.S. semiconductor manufacturing, research and development, and supply chain security; * provides funding for wireless supply chain innovation; * establishes a Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation; * extends through 2025 the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to lease its non-excess real property and related personal property; * authorizes various programs and policies related to space exploration; * authorizes various international affairs programs and activities, including foreign assistance for the Indo-Pacific region; * requires federal infrastructure programs to provide for the use of materials produced in the United States; * imposes sanctions on China for cybersecurity and human rights abuses; * requires the Department of Health and Human Services to consider national security risks associated with sensitive genetic information; * includes initiatives related to elementary and secondary education, including those to increase computer science education; * contains provisions related to higher education, including those reauthorizing through FY2027 international education programs and addressing China's influence on institutions of higher education; * modifies and expands the schedule for graduated merger filing fees; * prohibits federal funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology; * requires the U.S. Trade Representative to take certain actions related to digital trade and censorship practices; and * extends through 2027 the Generalized System of Preferences.

Primary Sponsors

Eddie Johnson

State **US**

Bill Number

HR 7385

act Action

Referred To The House Committee On Education And Labor 2022 04 04

Status

In House

Title TRAIN Act

Primary Sponsors Lucy McBath Introduction Date: 2022-04-04

Bill Number HR 6255 Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-12-13

Status
In House

Title

Employer-Directed Skills Act

Description

Employer-Directed Skills Act This bill allows for an employer to sponsor skills development programs with partial federal reimbursement under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). These new skills development programs are exempt from the program application and participant assessment requirements that typically apply to WIOA employment and training activities. However, these skills development programs must be conducted according to an employer-sponsored skills development agreement that includes, among other required provisions, a commitment by the employer to employ an individual upon successful completion of the program. The bill also requires the federal share of these skills development programs and the federal share of existing on-the-job training programs to be paid by reimbursement from employer-directed skills accounts that must be established by local one-stop operators.

Primary Sponsors

Elise Stefanik

Bill Number HR 5376

Last Action

11 19

Motion To Reconsider Laid On The Table 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-09-27

Status

In Senate

Title

Build Back Better Act

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 and energy-efficiency 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, 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. The bill also includes provisions that * provide free child care for children under the age of six; * provide free universal preschool services; * establish a methane fee for certain petroleum and natural gas facilities; * expand Medicare to cover hearing care; * allow certain aliens who entered the United States prior to January 1, 2011, to temporarily remain and work in the country; * provide up to four weeks of paid family and medical leave per year; * restructure and increase taxes 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

State US 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

Title

Apprenticeships to College Act

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

Introduction Date: 2021-05-27

Bill Number

HR 3342

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-05-19

Status
In House

Title

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 US 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

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

Tina Smith

Introduction Date: 2021-05-19

Bill Number S 1534 Last Action

Status

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

Introduction Date: 2021-05-10

In Senate

Title

REO Act of 2021

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

HR 1225

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Immigration And Citizenship 2021 04 28

Introduction Date: 2021-02-23

Status

In House

Title

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

Bill Number

HR 2733

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-04-21

Status
In House

Title

Counseling for Career Choice Act

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

State US Bill Number

Last Action

Status In Senate

S S 1026

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

Introduction Date: 2021-03-25

Title

American Apprenticeship Act

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

Introduction Date: 2021-03-23

Status
In House

Title

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

Elise Stefanik

Bill Number

Last Action

Status

In Senate

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

Introduction Date: 2021-03-22

Title

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
US HR 636

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Immigration And Citizenship 2021 03 22

Introduction Date: 2021-02-01

Status

In House

Title

PARTNERS Act

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-24

Status

Enacted

Title

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 midsized 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

Status In House

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-26

Title

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.

Bill Number

S 477

Primary Sponsors

John Carter

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee

In Senate

On Finance 2021 02 25

Title

State

US

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 conventionand 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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-25

Bill Number HR 447

Last Action

Status

Received In The Senate And Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2021 02 25

Introduction Date: 2021-01-25

In Senate

Title

National Apprenticeship Act of 2021

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

Status In House

Referred To The Subcommittee On Nutrition **Oversight And Department Operations 2021**

Introduction Date: 2021-01-25

02 24

Title

RESET for America's Future Act

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

State US Bill Number

S 396

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-23

02 23

In Senate

Title

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

Bill Number

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-04

Status In House

Title

Youth Corps Act of 2021

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

Freddi Wilson

State US 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

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-03

Bill Number HR 702

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 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.

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

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Status

In House

State **US** Bill Number HR 703

Title

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

Bill Number HR 720

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Status
In House

Title

CHANCE in TECH Act

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

Bill Number HR 691

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

In House

Title

Expanding Opportunity through Pre-Apprenticeships Act

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 preapprenticeship programs for underrepresented populations and individuals with barriers to employment, and requires Labor to award related grants to certain eligible entities (e.g., communitybased 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

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Status
In House

Title

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 indemand 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 S 186

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Status

In Senate

Title

US

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

Bill Number

Last Action

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

Introduction Date: 2021-01-28

Status
In House

Title

Relaunching America's Workforce Act

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 **US** Bill Number S 52

Last Action

Status In Senate

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

Title

Gateway to Careers Act of 2021

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

Introduction Date: 2021-01-26

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