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February 2, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I strongly urge you to support the “National Apprenticeship Act of 2021” (H.R. 447) that would strengthen and expand registered apprenticeship, youth apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs across the country.

AFSCME members work in hundreds of different occupations across the country, from nurses to correctional officers, child care providers to sanitation workers, providing the vital services that make America happen. They know how apprenticeship programs open doors to obtaining good jobs. These programs sometimes provide an alternative to attending two- or four-year college, which not everyone can do. Apprenticeships include in classroom education and on-the-job training in four- to five-year programs depending on the industry. Often the programs are paid, so graduates complete the program without tuition debt. The highly skilled training gained leads to good paying jobs.

Apprenticeship programs creates a pathway to finding gainful employment, which is desperately needed during this time when millions of people are unemployed. The “National Apprenticeship Act of 2021” is an investment in our nation’s workforce. It would create one million new apprenticeship opportunities in traditional and non-traditional industries, and it would establish standards and worker protections in the system.

AFSCME urges you to support the “National Apprenticeship Act of 2021” to assist people with obtaining employment during these hard economic times.

Sincerely,

Bailey K. Childers
Director of Federal Government Affairs

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