



1201 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Rebecca S. Pringle
President

Princess R. Moss
Vice President

Noel Candelaria
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

November 18, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members, who prepare students across America to pursue fulfilling careers that support their families and communities, we urge you to vote YES on the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 (H.R. 8294). Votes on this issue may be included in the NEA Report Card for the 116th Congress.

Apprenticeship programs are a key part of the education landscape, yet the National Apprenticeship Act has not been significantly updated in the nearly 80 years since it was signed into law. H.R. 8294 recognizes that programs offering on-the-job training and mentoring pave the way to successful careers, and helps bring these programs into the 21st century. The legislation is particularly timely given rising joblessness and financial insecurity stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 would:

- Create the Office of Apprenticeship in the U.S. Department of Labor, with responsibilities including supporting development of apprenticeship models, providing technical assistance to state agencies, updating requirements for each occupation in the program, and determining whether to approve new occupations for the program;
- Codify provisions implemented over the years regarding registered apprenticeship programs and expand the programs to new industries;
- Amend the existing law to include pre-apprenticeships and youth apprenticeships; and
- Authorize annual grants ranging from \$400 million to \$800 million to expand apprenticeship programs and encourage employer participation in them.

The National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 recognizes the value of apprenticeships in supporting the dreams and ambitions of students of all ages and preparing them for high-wage careers. We urge you to vote YES on H.R. 8294.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association