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February 5, 2021

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 2021 (H.R. 447). Votes on this issue may be included in the NEA Report Card for the 117th 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. 447 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 2021 would take a number of steps to expand apprenticeships, including:

- Creating 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;
- Codifying provisions implemented over the years regarding registered apprenticeship programs and expand the programs to new industries; and
- Amending the existing law to include pre-apprenticeships and youth apprenticeships.

The National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 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. 447.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association