

OPPORTUNITY
AMERICA



Jobs and Careers Coalition

January 29, 2021

The Honorable James P. McGovern
Chairman
Committee on Rules
US House of Representatives
H-312, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules
US House of Representatives
H-152, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman McGovern and Ranking Member Cole,

I'm writing on behalf of the Opportunity America Jobs and Careers Coalition to urge that Rep. French Hill's proposed amendment to Section 201(d)(2)(B) of the National Apprenticeship Act be ruled in order and voted on when the legislation comes to the floor.

The Opportunity America Jobs and Careers Coalition is a Washington-based business group focused on job training and workforce development. Members include employers and employer associations from a broad range of industries that experience skills mismatches and worker shortages – IT, manufacturing, construction, retail and hospitality, among others.

The employer associations in our coalition strongly support the apprenticeship model – indeed many are assisting their members in moving to implement it.

We see much to appreciate in the National Apprenticeship Act, including its concern for streamlining and simplifying the registration process, the resources it provides for technical assistance and the incentives for employers and intermediaries working to launch apprenticeship programs.

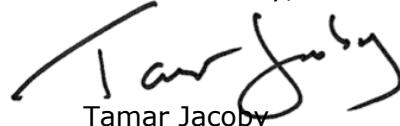
But we are concerned about Section 201(d)(2)(B). We fail to understand the rationale for what we see as ambiguous language about what entities will be eligible for Title II grants and whether or not such entities will be required to "partner with a labor or joint labor management organization."

The nation is struggling to emerge from a historic public health crisis and a period of prolonged economic uncertainty. Full recovery will require dynamism and sustained growth in all sectors of the economy. The pandemic is driving dramatic change in national and regional labor markets, and employers in many sectors are likely to face challenging skills mismatches – mismatches for which apprenticeship is often the best remedy. But as is, without a change, this ambiguous provision of the bill could exclude

entire swaths of the economy from federal incentives and assistance that could help spur the growth of registered apprenticeship programs.

We are eager to see apprenticeship elevated as a national priority and brought to scale across all sectors of the economy. We look forward to working with Congress on a bipartisan basis to advance public policy that encourages and incentivizes employers in all industries to launch and expand earn-and-learn training.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamar Jacoby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tamar Jacoby
President