

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 702

To direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to develop, administer, and evaluate early childhood education apprenticeships, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself and Ms. WILD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to develop, administer, and evaluate early childhood education apprenticeships, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

4 **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
6 tion with the Secretary of Health and Human Services
7 and the Secretary of Education, shall award grants to
8 States to develop, administer, and evaluate apprentice-
9 ships.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—A State seeking a grant under
2 this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary for
3 approval at such time, in such manner, and containing
4 such information as the Secretary may require.

5 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—

6 (1) REQUIRED USES.—A grant under sub-
7 section (a) shall be used for activities that develop,
8 administer, and evaluate an apprenticeship, includ-
9 ing—

10 (A) equipping apprentices with specialized
11 knowledge, skills, and competencies required to
12 work in early childhood education;

13 (B) increasing the number of apprentices
14 (including apprentices that are in areas that are
15 underserved or rural) with a recognized postsec-
16 ondary credential, a certificate of completion of
17 an apprenticeship, or a degree from an institu-
18 tion of higher education;

19 (C) promoting recruitment and retention of
20 apprentices;

21 (D) providing a pathway to career ad-
22 vancement for apprentices by assisting such ap-
23 prentices in completing an apprenticeship and
24 tracking the percent of such completions, in-
25 cluding the apprentices who—

1 (i) attend an institution of higher edu-
2 cation after completing an apprenticeship;
3 and

4 (ii) enter into employment that is un-
5 subsidized after completing an apprentice-
6 ship;

7 (E) supporting partnerships with institu-
8 tions of higher education in the State, busi-
9 nesses, and other entities participating in an
10 apprenticeship to provide for academic credit
11 for instruction related to the apprenticeship and
12 the application of such credit toward a degree
13 at an institution of higher education; and

14 (F) developing strategies to hire and retain
15 qualified supervisors for apprentices that sup-
16 port such apprentices through—

17 (i) professional development;

18 (ii) mentorship;

19 (iii) evaluation; and

20 (iv) training.

21 (2) PERMITTED USES.—In addition to the re-
22 quirements under paragraph (1), a grant under sub-
23 section (a) may be used to—

24 (A) coordinate with the State apprentice-
25 ship agency to determine and disseminate best

1 practices, recommended curricula, or other re-
2 sources on administering effective apprentice-
3 ships for businesses, institutions of higher edu-
4 cation, or other entities participating in an ap-
5 prenticeship; and

6 (B) establish primary indicators of per-
7 formance with respect to apprentices and indi-
8 viduals who have completed an apprenticeship
9 to be shared on State and national workforce
10 registries (commonly known as “Registered Ap-
11 prenticeship Partners Information Data Sys-
12 tems”), including—

13 (i) the percentage of individuals who
14 have completed an apprenticeship and re-
15 main employed full-time in early childhood
16 education—

17 (I) 6 months after completing
18 such apprenticeship; and

19 (II) 1 year after completing such
20 apprenticeship;

21 (ii) the median earnings of individuals
22 who have completed an apprenticeship and
23 are employed full-time in early childhood
24 education within 6 months after com-
25 pleting such apprenticeship;

1 (iii) the percentage of apprentices who
2 obtain a recognized postsecondary creden-
3 tial, a secondary school diploma, or the
4 recognized equivalent of such diploma
5 while participating in an apprenticeship;
6 and

7 (iv) the percentage of individuals who
8 have completed an apprenticeship and who
9 begin or obtain a recognized postsecondary
10 credential or degree, a secondary school di-
11 ploma, or the recognized equivalent of such
12 diploma within 1 year after completing an
13 apprenticeship.

14 (d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize State
15 applicants that—

16 (1) have developed partnerships with—

17 (A) Indian Tribes in such State; or

18 (B) institutions of higher education that
19 serve minority populations;

20 (2) have a statewide credit articulation agree-
21 ment in place that ensures credit transfer between
22 participating institutions of higher education in the
23 State and other relevant credential programs; or

1 (3) assure that no less than 25 percent of the
2 grant funds will be used to support apprenticeships
3 in underserved or rural communities.

4 (e) GRANT TERM AND LIMITATION.—

5 (1) TERM.—The term of a grant made under
6 this Act shall be 3 years.

7 (2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall award no
8 greater than 20 grants each fiscal year.

9 (f) COST-SHARING.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the
11 cost of any activity carried out using a grant made
12 under this Act shall be not more than 75 percent.

13 (2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-
14 eral share of the total cost of any activity carried
15 out using a grant made under this Act may be in
16 the form of donations or in-kind contributions of
17 goods or services fairly valued.

18 (g) STATE EVALUATION AND REPORT TO SEC-
19 RETARY.—

20 (1) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Not later than
21 1 year after receiving a grant under this Act, and
22 annually thereafter for the duration of the grant, a
23 State shall submit to the Secretary a report con-
24 taining an evaluation of the apprenticeships to deter-

1 mine which program strategies made progress to-
2 ward—

3 (A) increasing the aggregate number of ap-
4 prentices; and

5 (B) increasing the retention rates of ap-
6 prentices.

7 (2) RULE FOR REPORTING DATA.—The
8 disaggregation of data under this Act shall not be
9 required when the number of apprentices in a cat-
10 egory is insufficient to yield statistically reliable in-
11 formation or when the results would reveal person-
12 ally identifiable information about an apprentice.

13 (h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5 years
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
15 shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of
16 each State that received a grant under this Act to develop,
17 administer, and evaluate apprenticeships, including evalu-
18 ating—

19 (1) an increase in the number of apprentices in
20 early childhood education;

21 (2) an increase in the retention rates of individ-
22 uals who work in early childhood education after
23 completing an apprenticeship;

24 (3) the career path of apprentices and individ-
25 uals who have completed an apprenticeship; and

1 (4) an increase in the number of credentials
2 and degrees obtained by apprentices.

3 (i) FUNDING.—To carry out the grant program
4 under this Act, the Secretary shall use amounts allocated
5 under section 414(c) of the American Competitiveness and
6 Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3224a).

7 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

8 (1) APPRENTICE.—The term “apprentice”
9 means an individual participating in a registered ap-
10 prenticeship program focused on early childhood
11 education as that term is defined under section 103
12 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
13 1003).

14 (2) APPRENTICESHIP.—The term “apprentice-
15 ship” means a registered apprenticeship program
16 that trains apprentices.

17 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
18 term “institution of higher education” has the
19 meaning given the term under section 102(a)(1) of
20 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
21 1002(a)(1)).

22 (4) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
23 The term “registered apprenticeship program”
24 means an apprenticeship program registered under
25 the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as

1 the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 29 U.S.C. 50 et
2 seq.).

3 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Labor.

5 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
6 the several States, the District of Columbia, and the
7 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

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