NCDA Monthly Advocacy Report

On the Hill
Congress faced several critical legislative deadlines in September, making it an extremely busy month on Capitol Hill. Congressional Democrats spent the month negotiating multiple large legislative packages, including the $1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package and the $3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package (the social safety net bill being dubbed the “Build Back Better Act”). The House was expected to vote on the bipartisan infrastructure package at the end of September. However, due to backlash from progressives who wanted to see a vote on the larger budget reconciliation bill first, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi postponed the vote. With support for the $3.5 trillion price tag of the budget reconciliation package waning among moderate Democrats in the Senate (whose votes are required for the bill to pass), closed-door negotiations are ongoing to cut the bill down to $2 trillion. While we do not yet know exactly where cuts will be made, from our conversations with Senate staff we believe that climate change, healthcare, and K-12 education provisions that do not have bipartisan support are the most at risk.

Congress also faced a September 30th deadline to pass either a FY22 appropriations bill or continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government through the end of the calendar year. House Democrats drafted a continuing resolution in late September that also included a provision to raise the debt ceiling. Raising the debt ceiling is critical to prevent the federal government from running out of money in mid-October, but Republicans opposed the measure because it would open the door for Democrats to push through additional spending. At the last possible moment, on the afternoon of September 30th, Congress reached a compromise and voted to pass the CR (minus the debt ceiling provision) and narrowly averted a government shutdown. The federal government is now funded through December 3rd.

Lobbyit Update
UPDATE
This month, Lobbyit has worked closely with NCDA to push for widespread recognition of the importance of career development in Congress. We met with the offices of Congressman Langevin (D-RI) and Congressman Thompson (R-PA), chairs of the Congressional CTE Caucus, to push for the November 1st introduction of a resolution in support of National Career Development Month. Both Congressmembers have agreed to sponsor the introduction of this legislation. We also updated the resolution text to include the newly released 2021 Harris Poll research that NCDA had commissioned. NCDA has also been offered the unique opportunity to provide input on the upcoming reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) over the next few months. This will only further solidify the Association’s status as a leading expert on workforce and career development policy.

In September, the House Education and Labor Committee finalized bill text for their version of the $3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package; as expected, the bill includes significant funding for workforce and career development. The Committee's portion of the bill contains a total of $761 billion in new funding, including $16 billion for displaced worker employment and training, $15 billion for adult worker employment and training activities, and $9.05 billion for youth workforce investment activities.

It also includes $2 billion for Community College Grants, which provide funding to community colleges to expand workforce development and employment opportunities in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations. $10 billion is allocated for Industry or Sector Partnership Grants to expand workforce development and employment opportunities in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand fields, including information technology, clean energy, infrastructure and transportation, advanced manufacturing, public health home care and early childhood care and education. Lobbyit recommends that we continue to emphasize the importance of this funding to our champions, stressing the need to maintain as much workforce development investment as possible and to resist cuts to it during the re-negotiations of the reconciliation package.

Lobbyit continues to provide NCDA with weekly updates on the state of play on the Hill and presented at the monthly Government Affairs Committee call.

LOOKING AHEAD
The Lobbyit team will be presenting to the NCDA board at their meeting in Alexandria in October. We will also be developing and recording a presentation this month for November’s virtual CPI. In addition, we continue to work closely with Congress to introduce the National Career Development Month resolution by November 1st, express NCDA’s support for the Counseling for Career Choice Act (which NCDA drafted language for), and gather additional information on the status of career and workforce development provisions in the budget reconciliation package. Additionally, we are evaluating options to be considered for NCDA’s annual legislative award recipients.
Title
Build Back Better Act

Description
This bill provides funding, establishes programs, and otherwise modifies provisions relating to a broad array of areas, including education, labor, child care, health care, taxes, immigration, and the environment. (The bill is commonly referred to as the Build Back Better Act.) For example, the bill provides funding for * management of the National Forest System; * job placement and career services; * safe drinking water, energy-efficiency, and weatherization projects; * electric vehicles and zero-emission, heavy-duty vehicles; * public health infrastructure and supply chain resiliency; * housing, rental, and homeowner assistance programs; * cybersecurity programs; * tribal infrastructure, housing, environmental, and health programs; * wildfire prevention, drought relief, conservation efforts, and climate change research; * small business assistance and development; * transit services and clean energy projects in low-income communities; and * infrastructure and administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, the bill establishes programs to provide * up to six semesters of free community college, * free child care for children under the age of six, * free universal preschool services, and * health benefits for eligible individuals who reside in states that have not expanded Medicaid. The bill also includes provisions that * establish a methane fee for certain petroleum and natural gas facilities; * expand Medicare to cover dental, hearing, and vision care; * provide certain aliens with a path to permanent resident status (e.g., those who entered the United States as minors); * provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave; * restructure and increase the tax rates for certain corporations and high-income individuals (e.g., individuals with income over $400,000); and * require the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate maximum prices for certain brand-name drugs under Medicare.

Primary Sponsors
John Yarmuth

Title
Apprenticeships to College Act

Primary Sponsors
Amy Klobuchar
Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021

This bill requires the Department of Labor to award grants to certain national youth-serving organizations for comprehensive workforce readiness programs provided to youth that take place before or after school, during summer vacation or holiday, or on the weekend (i.e., out-of-school-time programs). Such grants must be used to develop and implement youth workforce readiness programs, including for activities such as on-the-job and leadership opportunities, internships, and other supportive services. The bill also requires local workforce development boards to establish youth councils as subgroups of the boards.

Primary Sponsors
Josh Harder

Title
Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021

Description
Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Labor to award grants to certain national youth-serving organizations for comprehensive workforce readiness programs provided to youth that take place before or after school, during summer vacation or holiday, or on the weekend (i.e., out-of-school-time programs). Such grants must be used to develop and implement youth workforce readiness programs, including for activities such as on-the-job and leadership opportunities, internships, and other supportive services. The bill also requires local workforce development boards to establish youth councils as subgroups of the boards.

Primary Sponsors
Josh Harder
**Title**
REO Act of 2021

**Description**
REO Act of 2021 This bill establishes the Reentry Employment Opportunities Program to make grants for the purpose of providing job training opportunities to formerly incarcerated adults, youths, and young adults who have dropped out of school. Grants are awarded to entities such as nonprofit organizations, organizations serving women or a minority population, and state and local governments to carry out projects related to apprenticeship programs, occupational skills education, on-the-job training, work experience, job referrals, basic skills remediation, educational services, and work readiness activities for such individuals.

**Primary Sponsors**
Gary Peters

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**Title**
National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act of 2021

**Description**
National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act of 2021 This bill requires each national security agency to report on its diversity and inclusion efforts. The bill defines diversity as diversity of persons based on gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and other demographic categories. It also requires each such agency to * develop a system to collect and analyze applicant employment data to identify areas for improvement in attracting diverse talent, with emphasis on senior and management positions; * conduct periodic interviews with a representative cross-section of the national security workforce to obtain workplace information; * sponsor workforce members to participate in a Senior Executive Service candidate development program or similar program; * implement performance and advancement requirements for the workforce; * create opportunities for senior personnel to participate in outreach events and to discuss issues relating to diversity and inclusion; and * expand training on bias in the workplace and flexible work policies. The bill encourages agencies to expand professional development and career advancement opportunities that support their missions and to seek a diverse and talented pool of employment applicants by reaching out to educational organizations and professional associations.

**Primary Sponsors**
Gerry Connolly
Title
American Apprenticeship Act

Description
American Apprenticeship Act This bill directs the Department of Labor to make grants to assist states in carrying out projects that defray the cost of instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs. Labor shall (1) establish performance measures and an evaluation system for such grant program; and (2) identify in-demand occupations that lack the use of qualified apprenticeship programs, analyze the use of such program model in those occupations, and report on such analysis to states and Congress.

Primary Sponsors
Amy Klobuchar

Introduction Date: 2021-03-25

Title
Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021

Description
Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021 This bill establishes a grant program through which the Department of Education may award funds to eligible partnerships to support rural postsecondary education and economic growth and development in rural communities. A grant recipient must be a partnership whose members represent at least three designated types of organizations, specifically (1) a local educational agency or educational service agency serving a rural area, (2) an institution of higher education (IHE), (3) a regional economic development entity, or (4) a rural community-serving organization with demonstrated success supporting rural students in accessing higher education and attaining degrees. A grant recipient must use awarded funds to carry out no fewer than two specified activities, namely (1) improving postsecondary enrollment rates for rural secondary school students, (2) increasing enrollment and completion rates of rural nontraditional students in degree programs at IHEs, (3) creating or strengthening academic programs at rural-serving IHEs to prepare graduates to enter into high-need occupations in the regional and local economies, or (4) generating local and regional economic development that creates employment opportunities for rural students with postsecondary degrees.

Primary Sponsors
Elise Stefanik

Introduction Date: 2021-03-23
### Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021

**Description**

Success for Rural Students and Communities Act of 2021 This bill establishes a grant program through which the Department of Education may award funds to eligible partnerships to support rural postsecondary education and economic growth and development in rural communities. A grant recipient must be a partnership whose members represent at least three designated types of organizations, specifically (1) a local educational agency or educational service agency serving a rural area, (2) an institution of higher education (IHE), (3) a regional economic development entity, or (4) a rural community-serving organization with demonstrated success supporting rural students in accessing higher education and attaining degrees. A grant recipient must use awarded funds to carry out no fewer than two specified activities, namely (1) improving postsecondary enrollment rates for rural secondary school students, (2) increasing enrollment and completion rates of rural nontraditional students in degree programs at IHEs, (3) creating or strengthening academic programs at rural-serving IHEs to prepare graduates to enter into high-need occupations in the regional and local economies, or (4) generating local and regional economic development that creates employment opportunities for rural students with postsecondary degrees.

**Primary Sponsors**

Susan Collins

### PARTNERS Act

**Description**

PARTNERS Act Promoting Apprenticeships through Regional Training Networks for Employers Required Skills Act of 2021 or the PARTNERS Act This bill establishes a grant program to promote registered apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of eligible partnerships.

**Primary Sponsors**

Suzanne Bonamici
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

This bill provides additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

TITLE I--COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Subtitle A--Agriculture

(Sec. 1001) This section provides funding for FY2021 to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to (1) purchase food and agricultural commodities; (2) purchase and distribute agricultural commodities (including fresh produce, dairy, seafood, eggs, and meat) to individuals in need; (3) provide grants and loans for small or midsized food processors or distributors, seafood processing facilities and processing vessels, farmers markets, producers, or other organizations to respond to COVID-19; and (4) provide grants, loans, and other assistance to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. The section also requires USDA to use specified amounts of the funding to (1) conduct animal surveillance and monitoring related to COVID-19; and (2) reduce overtime inspection costs borne by federally inspected small and very small meat, poultry, or egg processors. (Sec. 1002) This section provides funding for, and directs USDA to establish, an emergency pilot program to provide grants to certain applicants for rural health care and other rural development needs related to COVID-19. (Sec. 1003) This section provides funding for necessary administrative expenses associated with carrying out this subtitle. (Sec. 1004) This section provides funding through FY2022 to the Office of the Inspector General of USDA for audits, investigations, and other oversight activities of projects and activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Sec. 1005) This section provides funding for USDA to pay off outstanding farm loan debts of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. (Sec. 1006) This section provides funding for USDA to address historical discrimination and disparities in the agriculture sector. Specifically, USDA must use specified amounts to * provide outreach, mediation, training, and assistance on issues concerning food, agriculture, agricultural credit, agricultural extension, rural development, or nutrition to certain socially disadvantaged groups, including socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners; * provide grants and loans to improve land access for such groups; * fund one or more equity commissions to address racial equity issues within USDA and its programs; * support and supplement agricultural research, education, and extension, as well as scholarships and programs that provide internships and pathways to federal employment; and * provide financial assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers, ranch... (click bill link to see more).

Primary Sponsors

John Yarmuth
More Choice for Career Training Act of 2021

This bill requires the Department of Education to develop an alternative certification program that allows students to use Pell Grants for enrollment in educational programs that have existed for at least five years and would not otherwise be eligible. The alternative certification program may not require accreditation, state authorization, minimum instructional hours, or minimum classroom time for an educational program to be eligible.

Primary Sponsors
John Carter

Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act of 2021

This bill extends existing and establishes new tax credits that assist the hospitality and restaurant industry. Specifically, it * allows a convention and trade show restart tax credit; * extends the employee retention tax credit through 2021; * suspends for taxable years 2021 through 2022, the limitation on entertainment expenses related to a trade or business, * allows a restaurant and dining restart credit for businesses closed or forced to reduce services due to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019); * allows a 50% tax credit for travel expenditures; and * allows a tax credit for unmerchantable inventory for the period between December 31, 2019, and before April 1, 2021.

Primary Sponsors
Catherine Cortez Masto
National Apprenticeship Act of 2021

This bill provides statutory authority for the registered apprenticeship program within the Department of Labor and for related grant programs. The bill provides statutory authority for the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within Labor. The OA’s responsibilities include (1) supporting the development of apprenticeship models; (2) recognizing qualified state apprenticeship agencies, and operating apprenticeship offices in states without a recognized agency; (3) providing technical assistance to state agencies; (4) periodically updating requirements for each occupation in the apprenticeship program and determining whether to approve new occupations for the program; (5) promoting greater diversity in the national apprenticeship system; and (6) awarding grants provided by this bill. The bill also establishes in statute the responsibilities of state apprenticeship agencies and offices, including (1) providing technical assistance to stakeholders, (2) resolving complaints, (3) establishing state performance goals, and (4) including in its written plan a description of how its apprenticeship programs align with the skills needs of the state's employers. The OA shall enter into an agreement with the Department of Education to promote the integration and alignment of apprenticeship programs with secondary, postsecondary, and adult education. The OA shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to (1) expand national apprenticeship system programs, including by expanding pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs; (2) encourage employer participation; and (3) strengthen alignment between the apprenticeship system and education providers. The bill provides statutory authority for criteria for various programs, including (1) quality standards for apprenticeships, (2) requirements for apprenticeship agreements between a program sponsor and an apprentice, and (3) acceptable uses for grant funds awarded by this bill. The bill also provides statutory authority for the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships. The committee’s duties shall include advising the OA on matters relating to this bill and providing recommendations on topics such as increasing the participation of populations not traditionally involved in the national apprenticeship system. Labor shall engage an independent entity to conduct research on ways to improve the management and effectiveness of national apprenticeship system programs.

Primary Sponsors
Bobby Scott

Introduction Date: 2021-01-25
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**Title**
Revitalize and Expand SNAP Education and Training for America's Future Act

**Primary Sponsors**
Abigail Spanberger

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**Title**
Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2021

**Description**
Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Labor to implement a program to award grants to workforce intermediaries (certain national, regional, state, or local entities that facilitate the establishment of registered apprenticeship programs) to enable them to engage a variety of stakeholders to support, develop, and implement registered apprenticeship programs.

**Primary Sponsors**
Chris Coons

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**Title**
Youth Corps Act of 2021

**Primary Sponsors**
Freddi Wilson

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**Title**
Relaunching America's Workforce Act

**Primary Sponsors**
Patty Murray
Title
To direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to develop, administer, and evaluate early childhood education apprenticeships, and for other purposes.

Description
This bill requires the Department of Labor to award grants to states to develop, administer, and evaluate registered apprenticeship programs focused on early childhood education.

Primary Sponsors
Brett Guthrie

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02

Title
Apprenticeship Futures for All Act

Description
Apprenticeship Futures for All Act This bill requires the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within the Department of Labor to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities if the eligible entity is a qualified intermediary to (1) support national industry and equity intermediaries in establishing or expanding sector-based partnerships to support the delivery or expansion of programs under the national apprenticeship system to significant scale in the United States, or (2) serve programs under the national apprenticeship system in a local or regional setting. The delivery or expansion of programs under the national apprenticeship system shall be (1) in key sectors, including manufacturing, information technology, cyber security, health care, insurance and finance, energy, hospitality, retail, construction, and other sectors identified by the OA as targeted for expansion under the national apprenticeship system; or (2) for nontraditional apprenticeship populations, women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and individuals impacted by the criminal or juvenile justice system.

Primary Sponsors
Pramila Jayapal

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02
4.5% 81.8%

Title
CHANCE in TECH Act

Description
CHampioning Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in TECHnology Act or the CHANCE in TECH Act This bill requires the Department of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries to promote the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector. The Department of Education (ED) may issue CHANCE in TECH Awards for 21st Century Schools to secondary schools or junior or community colleges that demonstrate high achievement in providing students necessary skills to compete in the 21st century workforce. In making an award, ED must consider the availability of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), career and technical education, and computer technology courses at the schools.

Primary Sponsors
Seth Moulton

Introduction Date: 2021-02-02
Expanding Opportunity through Pre-Apprenticeships Act

This bill requires the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) within the Department of Labor to create a plan to expand participation in pre-apprenticeship programs for underrepresented populations and individuals with barriers to employment, and requires Labor to award related grants to certain eligible entities (e.g., community-based organizations, pre-apprenticeship sponsors, and employers for an in-demand industry or occupation). Specifically, the bill establishes pre-apprenticeship program standards and requirements; directs Labor to collect data on pre-apprenticeship programs, using workforce innovation and opportunity indicators of performance, on how programs resources are spent, and on the diversity and equal opportunity in apprenticeship programs; directs the OA in partnership with state apprenticeship agencies to conduct research in state labor markets and create a plan to expand participation in registered pre-apprenticeship programs for nontraditional populations or individuals with barriers to employment such as youth, women, people of color, long-term unemployed, individuals with disabilities, individuals with substance abuse issues, individuals impacted by the criminal justice system, and veterans; and provides grants to serve participants from nontraditional apprenticeship populations with preference to women, people of color, veterans, those who have been impacted by the youth or adult criminal justice system, and individuals with barriers to employment between the ages of 16 and 24.

Primary Sponsors
Tony Cardenas
### Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2021

**Title**
Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2021

**Description**
Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Labor to promote diversity and ensure equal opportunity to participate in programs for apprentices, youth apprentices, and pre-apprentices by * taking steps to promote diversity in apprenticeable occupations under the national apprenticeship system, especially in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors and occupations in areas with high percentages of low-income individuals; * ensuring programs under the national apprenticeship system adopt and implement policies for equal opportunity in such programs, do not engage in prohibited intimidation or retaliation, and are subject to enforcement action; and * supporting the recruitment, employment, and retention of nontraditional apprenticeship populations in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations, including women, people of color, individuals with disabilities, individuals impacted by the criminal and juvenile justice system, and individuals with barriers to employment.

**Primary Sponsors**
Alma Adams

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-02

### Early Educators Apprenticeship Act

**Title**
Early Educators Apprenticeship Act

**Description**
Early Educators Apprenticeship Act This bill establishes a grant program to award to partnerships—which may include employers, institutions of higher education, labor unions, and community-based organizations—the federal share of the costs of apprenticeship programs focused on early childhood education.

**Primary Sponsors**
Todd Young

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-02
### Relaunching America's Workforce Act

**Title**
Relaunching America's Workforce Act

**Description**
Relaunching America's Workforce Act This bill establishes several grant programs to address employment, the workforce, and education access in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. The Department of Labor must provide grants in response to the COVID-19 national emergency to * provide training and employment for dislocated, unemployed, and underemployed workers; * support youth employment; * establish workforce information systems improvements; * provide reentry employment opportunities for justice-involved youth and young adults; and * create or expand apprenticeship programs. Programs directed towards assisting Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farmworkers may be extended. The Department of Education must provide grants to expand the capacity of adult education providers to prioritize serving adults with low-literacy or numeracy levels negatively impacted by the COVID-19 national emergency, and to improve or expand career and technical education programs and programs of study to respond to state and local needs as a result of the COVID-19 national emergency.

**Primary Sponsors**
Bobby Scott

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### Gateway to Careers Act of 2021

**Title**
Gateway to Careers Act of 2021

**Description**
Gateway to Careers Act of 2021 This bill establishes a career pathway grant program through which the Department of Education must award competitive grants to certain public institutions of higher education and postsecondary technical education schools. Grant recipients must use these funds to (1) carry out activities that support the development and implementation of career pathway programs, and (2) provide support services to students engaged in career pathway programs.

**Primary Sponsors**
Maggie Hassan