

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Chairman of Ed & Labor Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Scott and Representative Fitzpatrick,

On behalf of The Manufacturing Institute (MI), the workforce development and education partner of the National Association of Manufacturers, I am writing to express our support of H.R. 477, the *National Apprenticeship Act of 2021*.

Manufacturers' top challenge continues to be the ability to attract and retain a qualified workforce, as noted in the NAM's Quarterly Manufacturers Outlook Survey. At the end of 2020, there were nearly 500,000 open jobs in manufacturing. The current health crisis in our country has left millions without jobs and exacerbated the need for individuals to receive training for the careers that are available now and in the future.

Registered Apprenticeship programs are one tool that can be utilized to support the business community in closing the skills gap and helping individuals enter a rewarding career. The *National Apprenticeship Act of 2021*, in addition to Congresswoman Slotkin's (D-MI-8) amendment, addresses many of the challenges that manufacturers have long experienced in the Registered Apprenticeship system by streamlining the registration and approval process and providing a more direct means of support for the companies and education partners that wish to create or expand Registered Apprenticeship programs.

The *National Apprenticeship Act of 2021* improves an established model of training and work-based learning that can help to close the skills gap that manufacturers face. We appreciate the bi-partisan agreement that has been reached on this bill and we support its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Lee  
Executive Director