

Workforce Apprenticeship Growth and Education Support (WAGES) Act Stakeholder Support

The Workforce Apprenticeship Growth and Education Support (WAGES) Act is supported by a wide range of stakeholders, including the American Hotel and Lodging Association, American Society for Nondestructive Testing, American Trucking Associations, Associated Equipment Distributors, Associated General Contractors of America, Caliber Collision, National Association of Home Builders, National Restaurant Association, National Roofing Contractors Association, Real Estate Roundtable, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Ascend Indiana, CEOs of Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP), Indiana Electric Cooperatives, Indiana Manufacturers Association, and the Indy Chamber.

“Nondestructive testing is essential to the safety and reliability of our nation’s infrastructure, energy systems, and manufacturing operations, yet the industry is facing a growing workforce challenge as more experienced professionals retire and fewer workers enter the field,” **said Neal Couture, CEO of the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT).**

“Apprenticeships provide a proven pathway to build that workforce through structured, hands-on learning aligned with real-world industry needs, and the WAGES Act is an important step toward supporting employers and expanding access to high-quality training programs.”

"A safe, efficient 21st century supply chain requires a highly trained, qualified workforce to power the trucking industry," **said Alex Rosen, SVP of Legislative Affairs for the American Trucking Associations.** “The WAGES Act will help meet that goal by providing pathways into interstate trucking while promoting enhanced instruction that will benefit the safety of all road users. ATA applauds Sen. Todd Young and Rep. Nathaniel Moran for seeking to expand opportunities for Americans to access this rewarding, well-paying profession without the burdensome debt associated with other career tracks.”

“The Associated General Contractors of America supports the WAGES Act as a practical step to strengthen the construction workforce. By creating a tax credit to offset the cost of participating in registered apprenticeship programs, this legislation makes it easier for contractors of all sizes to invest in the next generation of skilled workers. At a time when the construction industry faces widespread labor shortages, policies that expand apprenticeships and strengthen workforce pipelines will help create long-term careers, keep projects on track, and ensure the timely delivery of the infrastructure our economy depends on.”

Alex Etchen, Vice President, Construction Advocacy and Risk Management, Associated General Contractors of America

“There’s never been a more exciting time to build a career in the skilled trades. The Wages Act is a meaningful step forward, encouraging companies to invest in apprenticeship programs that create real opportunity for the next generation of talent. At Caliber, we see the impact of these programs every day—building careers, strengthening our workforce, and supporting the future of our industry. We appreciate Congressman Moran and Senator Young for their leadership in advancing this effort.”

David Simmons, Chief Executive Officer, Caliber Collision

“There are over 200,000 open residential construction jobs in any given month, and delays associated with labor shortages cost home builders and consumers more than \$10 billion annually. We are grateful for Senator Young and Representative Moran for introducing this bill to open more doors for Americans to enter the trades.”

Bill Owens, Chairman, National Association of Home Builders

“Restaurants are one of the last industries where someone can start in an entry-level job and work their way into a leadership position. The Association and our Educational Foundation are committed to supporting that advancement through Hospitality Sector Registered Apprenticeships. More than 5,000 people have already been through the program, and this bill will make it easier for restaurant employers to invest in apprenticeships and scale career pathways across the industry. We appreciate Sen. Young’s and Rep. Moran’s commitment to the career growth of the industry’s workforce and his support of the of the business owners who employ 1 in 10 people in the U.S.”

Sean Kennedy, Chief Advocacy Officer, National Restaurant Association

“The Real Estate Roundtable commends Senator Young and Representative Moran for introducing the Workforce Apprenticeship Growth and Education Support Act. By promoting apprenticeships nationwide, this bill would help address today’s shortage of well-paid, highly skilled construction and job site workers. A greater career workforce educated on the innovations rapidly occurring in construction technology and practices would significantly increase productivity, help build modern housing, meet evolving business needs and grow the economy.”

Jeffrey DeBoer, President & CEO, The Real Estate Roundtable

“The Workforce Apprenticeship Growth and Education Support (WAGES) Act is a timely bill that will strengthen America’s workforce pipeline and help small business employers play a more significant role in skills development. SBE Council strongly supports the WAGES Act and applauds Senator Todd Young and Representative Nathaniel Moran for their leadership in sponsoring this important legislation that will expand access and usage of apprenticeship programs by small businesses and our workforce.”

Karen Kerrigan, President & CEO, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

“Registered apprenticeships work when employers can fully participate. Indiana is consistently on the leading edge of work-and-learn models that give students and adults real-world experience while building the next generation of talent for our evolving economy. The WAGES Act helps reduce the upfront cost barriers that can limit employer participation, making it easier for more businesses to invest in apprenticeship programs. We support efforts that enable employers to train, retain, and grow the skilled workforce.”

Ascend Indiana / CEOs of Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP)

“We appreciate Senator Young’s leadership and thoughtful approach to support Indiana’s electric cooperatives and our dedicated, skilled workforce who are on the front lines of delivering electric service to rural Indiana,” **said John Cassady, CEO of Indiana Electric Cooperatives.** “This legislation strengthens the ability of our not-for-profit member cooperatives to deliver reliable, affordable electric service while reinvesting those savings to directly benefit our consumers.”

"The WAGES Act is a common-sense solution to one of the most persistent challenges facing Indiana’s industrial sector: the widening skills gap. By providing a refundable payroll tax credit to offset the significant upfront costs of registered apprenticeships, Senator Young’s proposal empowers manufacturers to build sustainable, high-quality talent pipelines. This legislation doesn’t just support workers; it reduces the financial barriers that often prevent small- and medium-sized manufacturers from investing in the robust on-the-job training and technical instruction necessary to compete in a global economy. The Indiana Manufacturers Association strongly supports this effort to bolster the proven apprenticeship model and ensure our workforce is prepared for the high-demand careers of the future."

Andrew Berger, President and CEO, Indiana Manufacturers Association