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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To encourage employer participation in apprenticeship programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. TRAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To encourage employer participation in apprenticeship
programs.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Apprenticeship Sup-
5 port for Small Employers and Teams Act” or the
6 “ASSET Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND CO-**
2 **OPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

3 The Administrator of the Office of Apprenticeship of
4 the Department of Labor shall award grants, contracts,
5 or cooperative agreements to eligible entities on a competi-
6 tive basis for the following purposes:

7 (1) ENCOURAGING EMPLOYER PARTICIPA-
8 TION.—To encourage employer participation in ap-
9 prenticeship programs—

10 (A) that target individuals with barriers to
11 employment in youth apprenticeship, pre-ap-
12 prenticeship, or apprenticeship programs,
13 prioritizing nontraditional apprenticeship popu-
14 lations such as women, minorities, long-term
15 unemployed, individuals with a disability, indi-
16 viduals with substance abuse issues, veterans,
17 military spouses, individuals experiencing home-
18 lessness, individuals impacted by the criminal or
19 juvenile justice system, and foster and former
20 foster youth;

21 (B) that are in high-need social service-re-
22 lated industries, sectors, or occupations, such as
23 direct care workers and early childhood edu-
24 cators;

25 (C) that target individuals currently or re-
26 cently incarcerated; or

1 (D) among small- and medium-sized em-
2 ployers.

3 (2) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPA-
4 TION GRANTS FOR SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSI-
5 NESSES.—An eligible entity that receives funds
6 under this section shall use such funds to encourage
7 participation of small- and medium-sized businesses
8 in apprenticeship programs, which may include—

9 (A) providing financial assistance to em-
10 ployers to support costs related to the pro-
11 grams, such as training incumbent workers as
12 mentors or employees supervising the on-the-job
13 learning;

14 (B) supporting the cost of related instruc-
15 tion or wages for program participants during
16 related instruction;

17 (C) providing technical assistance to small-
18 and medium-sized businesses on the program
19 registration process and leveraging other avail-
20 able funds to support carrying out such pro-
21 grams; or

22 (D) establishing or expanding partnerships
23 to support program development or expansion,
24 including establishing or expanding industry or

1 sector partnerships to ensure inclusion of small-
2 and medium-sized businesses.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term
6 “apprenticeship program” means an apprenticeship
7 registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (com-
8 monly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”;
9 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

10 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
11 ty” means—

12 (A) a program sponsor;

13 (B) a State workforce development board
14 or State workforce agency, or a local workforce
15 development board or local workforce develop-
16 ment agency;

17 (C) an education and training provider, or
18 a consortium thereof;

19 (D) a State apprenticeship agency;

20 (E) a Indian Tribe or Tribal organization;

21 (F) an industry or sector partnership, a
22 group of employers, a trade association, or a
23 professional association that sponsors an ap-
24 prenticeship program;

25 (G) a Governor;

1 (H) a labor organization or joint labor
2 management organization; or

3 (I) a qualified intermediary.