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Rep. Alma Adams Introduces Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2020

Her amendments come after the broader National Apprenticeship Act (NAA) of 2020

Washington, D.C. - This week, Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. (NC-12) introduced legislation to ensure that all Americans have equal access to apprenticeship programs that align with today's workforce needs. This bill is part of the broader National Apprenticeship Act (NAA) of 2020.

"The Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2020 will ensure the Department of Labor advances programs that promote the recruitment, employment, and retention of people of color, individuals with disabilities, and individuals facing barriers to employment, especially in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations," said Congresswoman Adams.

A copy of the proposed legislation is available here.

"Apprenticeships are one of the most effective earn and learn programs that benefits both businesses and employees. It's critical that these opportunities are accessible and offered to diverse candidate pools such as women, the disabled and people of color, and this bill is a step forward in that direction," said Danielle Frazier of Charlotte Works, a workforce development organization in District 12.

"In Charlotte, and in cities all across the country, only a small number of industries currently take advantage of apprenticeships. Reimagining apprenticeships in the wake of COVID-19 will only be accomplished with the dedication and partnership of the government, education partners, and industry leaders in high-demand fields, like IT and healthcare," said Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, President of Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). "As the nation and economy emerges from the pandemic – the Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2020 can help ensure we live up to our shared duty to strategically direct future investments in apprenticeship towards building programs with consistent quality that provide access for all workers - especially those with barriers to education in underrepresented demographic groups that historically have not reaped the many benefits of apprenticeship programs.

Congresswoman Alma Adams represents North Carolina's 12th

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Congressional District (Charlotte) and serves as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture. Additionally, she serves on the House Financial Services Committee and the House Education & Labor Committee, where she serves as Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee. In 2015, she founded the first bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus in Congress.

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