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Rep. Adams Delivers Speech in Support of House Apprenticeship Bill

Alma Adams Press [sam.spencer@mail.house.gov]

Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:56 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

Rep. Adams Delivers Speech in Support of House Apprenticeship Bill

The *National Apprenticeship Reauthorization Act of 2020* includes Adams' amendment, the *Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2020*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, **Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12)** addressed the United States House of Representatives in support of the *National Apprenticeship Reauthorization Act of 2020*. Adams is a cosponsor of the bill, which includes her amendment, the *Apprenticeship Access for All Act of 2020*.

[Video of the remarks is available here.](#)

"This legislation includes my bill, the *Apprenticeship Access for All Act*," **said Adams**. "This language will advance 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 sectors and occupations. After all, we must be sure that *everyone* has access to opportunity."

The Registered Apprenticeship program is America's most successful workforce development program. Reauthorizing the National Apprenticeship Act is critical to expanding the program during our nation's deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression. By increasing investments in the national apprenticeship program, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 will bring America's investments in apprenticeship more in line with countries around the world. The U.S. spends only about 0.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) on workforce training and employment programs, while our peer industrialized nations spend roughly six times as much as a share of GDP.

[A link to a fact sheet about the bill is available here.](#)

Adams' full remarks as prepared for delivery are below:

I rise today in strong support of the National Apprenticeship Reauthorization Act.

By creating nearly 1 million new apprenticeship opportunities and yielding over 10 billion dollars in net benefits, this legislation is a lifeline for our economy and for countless Americans, including those in my home state of North Carolina.

With a proven track record of success, we know this is a safe and smart investment.

I am also pleased that this legislation includes my bill, the Apprenticeship Access for All Act.

This language will advance 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 sectors and occupations.

After all, we must be sure that everyone has access to opportunity.

And to my colleagues, especially those on the other side of the aisle, I want to be clear about what we are voting to do here.

We are voting to ensure our workforce gets the investment it needs and the support it deserves.

We are voting to show the American people that they are seen, they are heard, and that we care deeply about providing them pathways to a stable future.

And we are voting to uphold Congress's commitment and obligation to serve every American.

I urge support of this legislation and I yield back the balance of my time.

###

Sam Spencer
Communications Director
Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, NC-12
2436 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-1510 Fax: 202-225-1512

Connect with us



Office of Congresswoman Alma Adams | 801 E. Morehead St, Suite 150, Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-344-9950

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

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