

Good Afternoon Committee Members,

On behalf of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association, Colorado Chapter (SMACNA Colorado), I express support for HB-1007 to create a state apprenticeship agency.

SMACNA Colorado is an organization supported by more than 60 HVAC and specialty metals contractors and a co-sponsor of the Colorado Sheet Metal Workers' Training Fund, which has operated a statewide, multi-employer, labor-management registered apprenticeship program for the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and architectural metal industry since its original registration on Oct. 20, 1938. Today, we train approximately 190 sheet metal worker apprentices for contributing employers across Colorado at our three facilities in Denver, Colorado Springs and Grand Junction.

We support HB-1007 and the creation of a Colorado-based agency to regulate and enforce apprenticeship standards so that all programs are held to the same high standards. At times, our staff have experienced long delays in answering technical questions and seeking approvals when updating or modernizing our program, which has delayed changes that we believe positively impact our training program and our apprentices.

Our apprenticeship program has been essential for industry growth and it has served as a launchpad for countless apprentices who have grown from their entry-level industry positions to foremen, superintendents, project managers and executives. These training programs deserve the highest level of support to ensure that they are receiving a world-class educational experience to advance in their chosen career.

We believe that a state agency would enhance responsiveness and improve technical assistance to our program and countless others. We further believe that regulation and promotion of apprenticeship programs across industries can be done more completely and efficiently at the state level and that a Colorado-based agency would have a better understanding of local needs, especially an agency that is accountable to leaders who are familiar with apprenticeship and industry needs.

Nothing in this bill would weaken existing standards or threaten existing registered programs and we see opportunities to improve, strengthen and grow apprenticeship programs under a state agency should this bill become law.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Nathan Cooper

Executive Director, SMACNA Colorado

Chairman, Colorado Sheet Metal Workers' Training Fund



Western Colorado Contractors Association

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03/10/2021

Business Affairs and Labor Committee
Honorable Representative Tom Sullivan
Honorable Representative David Ortiz
Honorable Senator Jessie Danielson
Honorable Senator Robert Rodriguez

CC:

The Honorable Senator Ray Scott,
The Honorable Representative Kerry Donovan

RE: State Apprenticeship Agency HB21-1007

Dear Esteemed Legislators,

On February 16, 2021, the State Apprenticeship Agency Bill was introduced to the legislature regarding apprenticeships in Colorado to be governed by a new state agency. With this bill comes concerns from stakeholders within the state. Western Colorado Contractors Association (WCCA) as a community stakeholder and association of construction related businesses opposes this bill as it is written for the following concerns to be considered before the bill is written into law.

WCCA opposes the proposed State Apprentice Agency bill, whereas:

- The bill states: The SAA may deregister an apprenticeship program for noncompliance with the requirements in the bill. The SAA shall conduct a hearing upon request of the SAC or the IAC regarding issues of noncompliance and deregistration. There is no consideration for successful existing programs that have been established in Colorado through the Department of Labor that would have to reapply to continue with new reporting requirements and additional rules.

Construction related businesses in Western Colorado in certain areas have had a need for training for years that provided accreditation and reliable experience for those trades to the current and future workforce. Entities in Colorado have provided for those needs complying with heavily regulated standards through the Department of Labor and have produced successful apprentices financially provided for by the sponsor or business.

- The Agency would create a new need for State funds that could be used in other areas of need. The fiscal note on the bill is asking for \$542,628 in the first year from the General Fund and \$968,990 in additional years that could be used in other areas of the State Budget such as transportation or education where there are already established needs. Some existing programs in Colorado are funded through employers. In some cases, existing programs are funded through federal funds (not including WCCA) which pull from Federal grants, which were also proposed in the fiscal bill, to offset costs.

WCCA board of directors on behalf of members of the association opposes this bill as written and recommends consideration of amendments or stakeholder participation to explore possible solutions to meet the needs this bill would provide for.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shawna Grieger, Executive Director
Western Colorado Contractors Association

Western Colorado Contractors Association (WCCA) is a non for-profit member association with the mission to protect and promote construction related businesses across 27 counties of Western Colorado.

“Providing Service to Members Since 1948”

House Business Affairs & Labor Committee Hearing
HB21-1007 State Apprenticeship Agency
Thursday, March 11, 2021

Chairperson Roberts and distinguished members of the Committee; my name is Ingrid Moore, from Longmont. I'm a concerned citizen writing on my own behalf **in support of** House Bill 21-1007.

I strongly support this bill and urge you to vote Yes.

Increased attention and focus are needed for promoting apprenticeship options in Colorado. Establishing this agency will allow coordination with federal programs and provide the framework needed for setting up this agency and developing its oversight rules.

This will go a long way toward providing more employment options and training for Colorado residents.

Please vote YES on this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Ingrid Moore
Longmont, Colorado
11 March, 2021

Dear Members of the Colorado House Business Affairs & Labor Committee:

Colorado Jobs With Justice (COJWJ) is a long-term, formal coalition of labor, community, faith, and student and youth organizations that come together to advance workers' rights and social justice through building sustained relationships and taking direct action to create concrete change in the lives of working families. Colorado Jobs With Justice supports HB21-1007, which would create a state agency to facilitate and oversee registered apprenticeship programs in all sectors of the economy. It is vital that the state dedicate resources to keeping in close contact with the US Department of Labor and create standards for apprenticeship programs within the state. We urge the members of this committee to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Quality apprenticeship programs create an important pathway to high paying jobs and technical specialization for workers from all walks of life. Workers are able to develop their skills in a structured educational program, with none of the debt that comes with traditional college or other job training programs. The state apprenticeship agency contemplated by HB21-1007 would also have an impact on Colorado's economy long-term. Workers will have greater access to union apprenticeships and in turn, the higher wages and greater benefits that come with those kinds of jobs. Equitable access to these jobs will have a ripple effect and help create a thriving working class in Colorado.

At a time when working people across the state have been suffering from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, it is vital that workers have the resources they need to seek out quality, high-paying jobs. Colorado Jobs With Justice urges the members of the committee to recognize the importance of quality apprenticeship programs in reaching this goal and vote in favor of HB21-1007.

Sincerely,

Eric Leveridge
Strategic Research Analyst
Colorado Jobs With Justice



925 S Niagara St Suite 600

Denver, Co 80224

Representing >29,000 Coloradans

RE: HB21-1007 - SUPPORT

Members of the House Business, & Labor Affairs Committee

Representatives.

The Colorado Alliance for Retired Americans is in strong support of HB21-1007, State Apprenticeship Agency Legislation.

Apprentices get an opportunity of on the job training and are exposed to real working conditions. They get a chance to work on advanced machines and equipment, industry's specific, best practices and learn about their field. This legislation will bring apprenticeships back to Local Control.

Sincerely,

CARA Lobby Committee, Mona Moffatt, Sara Gagliardi, Sheila Leider, Ed Augden