

U.S. Rep. Kind: Votes to expand apprenticeship opportunities and invest in Wisconsin workers

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Washington, DC—Today, **Rep. Ron Kind** voted for the bipartisan *National Apprenticeship Act of 2020*. This legislation reauthorizes the *National Apprenticeship Act* for the first time since its enactment in 1937 and would create nearly 1 million additional apprenticeship opportunities. Registered Apprenticeships – which provide apprentices with paid, on-the-job training – are the country’s most successful federal workforce training program.

Expanding access to apprenticeship opportunities will connect Wisconsin workers with stable, good-paying jobs and accelerate our economic recovery. According to the Department of Labor, 94% of people who complete Registered Apprenticeships (RAs) are employed upon completion and earn an average starting wage of more than \$70,000 annually. Additionally, this legislation would yield \$10.6 billion in net benefits to U.S. taxpayers in the form of increased tax revenue and decreased spending on public-assistance programs and unemployment insurance.

“Throughout Wisconsin, I often hear from folks about the importance of hands-on training, and the leg up it gives as they apply for jobs and enter the workforce,” said **Rep. Ron Kind**. “Expanding access to apprenticeships will give people the tools and expertise they need to find good-paying jobs right here in Wisconsin. As our nation continues to face serious economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I’m proud to vote for bipartisan legislation that invests in our greatest resource – our workers – to help Wisconsin build back stronger than ever.”

The *National Apprenticeship Act of 2020* would expand apprenticeship opportunities by codifying and streamlining standards for Registered Apprenticeship, youth

apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship programs to make it easier for apprentices and employers to participate in high-quality apprenticeships; codifying the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship; and establishing a grant program to support the expansion of apprenticeship opportunities, including pre-apprenticeships and youth apprenticeships.