



Enact the Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs (LEAP) Act

Background:

NECA contractors, both small businesses and major corporations, contribute approximately \$300 million annually to our apprenticeship and training programs across the country. NECA is proud of its commitment to training its members' employees to build the 'gold standard' of the registered apprenticeship program. For nearly 80 years, NECA employers contributed billions of dollars to apprenticeship funds in the electrical industry to ensure we have the industry's highest skilled workforce. A career in the construction trades offers an opportunity for a substantive post-secondary education at a minimal cost to the participants and at no cost to the federal government. This investment made by NECA contractors earns \$1.44 back for every dollar invested toward their apprentices in a registered apprenticeship (RA) program.

Congress should promote existing skilled apprenticeship programs as an option for post-high school education that offers a real education, economic growth, and a debt-free pathway. According to the Department of Labor, 94 percent of people who complete RAs are employed upon completion, earning an average starting wage of above \$77,000 annually. Yet, according to the most recent data, only 0.3 percent of the overall workforce in America has completed an apprenticeship.

Key Points:

- There is a serious need to build the next generation of skilled electricians.
- A career in the electrical trades is a viable alternative to a traditional four-year college education.
- The legislation offers a one-time tax credit per new apprentice of \$1,500 for contractors hiring new apprentices that are registered with the U.S Department of Labor or a state apprenticeship agency.
- The legislation also allows the credit to be used for pre-apprenticeship graduates currently enrolled in an apprenticeship program.
- The bill is fully paid for through an offset: cutting printing waste by barring the federal government from producing publications that are available online with an exception for seniors, Medicare recipients and in communities with limited internet access.

NECA Asks:

Cosponsor the Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs (LEAP) Act (H.R 1536), sponsored by Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL).

Cosponsors:

Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH)

Rep. Val Hoyle (D-OR)

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)