



WESTERN STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS



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635 Boise, ID
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To Representative David Nelson

I am writing in strong support of House Joint Resolution 20 as a labor representative who completed a registered apprenticeship and who continues to work directly with contractors to place apprentices on public, private, and military construction projects.

I am a product of the system this resolution seeks to strengthen. Registered apprenticeships is not an abstract workforce policy. It is how skilled workers are built. It is how safety, productivity, and quality are maintained on complex projects. It is also one of the most effective transition pathways available to veterans who are leaving military service and seeking stable civilian careers.

The Department of Defense is preparing to invest approximately 18 billion dollars in military construction nationwide. These projects will require thousands of workers who can meet strict performance, safety, and reliability standards. Apprenticeship programs produce exactly that workforce. Veterans trained through apprenticeship bring additional value because they already understand structure, accountability, and mission driven work.

In my role, I see the difference between workers who arrive with a clear training pathway and those who do not. Projects succeed when contractors can draw from established apprenticeship pipelines. Veterans succeed when they are connected to programs that recognize their experience and convert it into a skilled trade and a long-term career. HJR 20 reinforces both outcomes.

HJR 20 encourages Congress to require that not less than ten percent of the workforce on domestic Department of Defense construction projects be participants in qualified apprenticeship or postsecondary programs. This is not a quota. It is a workforce development benchmark that ensures federal construction dollars are also building the next generation of skilled workers.

The resolution further encourages that when apprentices or postsecondary students are employed in a particular classification, not less than ten percent of those trainees be veterans. This is an important provision. Without intentional goals, veterans are often praised in principle but overlooked in practice. This language ensures that veterans are not just supported rhetorically but included operationally.

This resolution does not interfere with hiring authority or contractor decision making. It simply aligns federal construction spending with workforce readiness and veteran opportunity. It recognizes that military construction should strengthen both national infrastructure and the people who build it.

Alaska has one of the highest per capita veteran populations in the nation and a long tradition of apprenticeship training. HJR 20 reflects those realities. It supports project quality, workforce stability, and meaningful post service careers for veterans.

I urge support for House Joint Resolution 20 and encourage its adoption. This resolution represents a practical, experience based approach to strengthening both the construction workforce and veteran employment.

Respectfully,
Chris Dimond
Lead Rep

Representing Carpenters in Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska and Oregon

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533 S. Fremont Ave., 10th Fl. Los Angeles, CA 90071

(213) 385-1457 | Fax: (213) 385-3759 | www.wscarpenters.org