



ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 11, 2021

Representative Zack Fields
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: ASHNHA Supports HB 132

Dear Representative Fields,

Thank you for introducing the “Alaska Apprenticeship Expansion Act” to build and expand apprenticeship programs for helping address workforce needs in Alaska and creating potential opportunities for increased funding from the federal government.

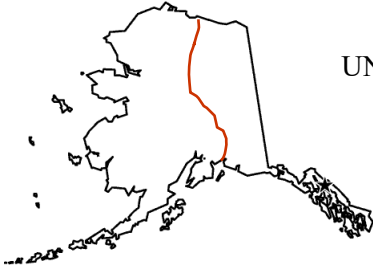
Workforce shortages are well documented in Alaska’s health care industry, and we believe your legislation is another tool for more effectively developing a pipeline of local talent to work in our hospitals and nursing homes.

At least two health care facilities currently participate in apprenticeship programs that fill a variety of in-demand positions, including sterile processing and radiology technicians. We support HB 132 and appreciate increased apprenticeship opportunities for Alaskans and health care employers.

Thank you for your partnership in working to solve the many health care challenges facing Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jared C. Kosin, J.D., M.B.A.
President & CEO



ALASKA STATE PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION
 UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES
 OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPEFITTING INDUSTRY
 OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
 3980 Boat Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
 TEL:(907)479-6221 FAX: (907)479-6227



March 22, 2021

The Honorable Zack Fields
 Alaska State House
 State Capital Room 24
 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for HB 132- SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS; TAX CREDITS

Dear Representative Fields,

We wish to express our full support for HB 132, and we want to thank the House Labor & Commerce committee for its commitment to expand registered apprenticeship in Alaska. As journeyman plumbers, we know firsthand how an apprenticeship program can transform your life, and provide a meaningful career pathway with good wages and benefits to support a family. At its core, apprenticeship is driven by the need for industry to develop a skilled workforce. Through apprenticeship, Alaskans can earn wages while they learn—both on the job and through classroom instruction—and ultimately receive a valuable and portable credential. Each of our locals has a strong apprenticeship program managed by a joint labor-management committee. Apprentices spend 10,000 hours in the program, longer than most because we are committed to producing the highest quality plumbers and pipefitters in Alaska.

Apprenticeship provides solid career pathways for veterans as well. The United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry (UA) has partnered with the U.S. Military to create the UA Veterans in Piping (VIP) program. Across the country, the VIP program is a pathway into a UA apprenticeship program which consists of 18 weeks of accelerated training. Veterans earn industry-recognized certifications and direct entry into solid, private-sector jobs with good pay and benefits.

As journeyman plumbers committed to our craft, we believe it's critical that Alaska's youth are presented with multiple career pathways in secondary school. While college is this right choice for many, it's not for everyone. By strengthening and expanding school to apprenticeship programs, we have the chance to reach many bright and capable Alaskans whose talents might otherwise be wasted in dead-end, low-paying jobs. Apprenticeship provides the structured training and on-the-job experience an individual needs to produce a skilled, highly-paid career professional.

Sincerely,

Robert Hubbard, President
 Business Manager, UA Local 375 (Fairbanks)

Aaron Plikat, Vice-President
 Business Manager, UA Local 367 (Anchorage)

Gene Bay, Secretary-Treasurer
 Business Manager, UA Local Union 262 (Juneau)

PRESIDENT
 Robert Hubbard

VICE PRESIDENT
 Aaron Plikat

SECRETARY- TREASURER
 Gene Bay



ALASKA IRONWORKERS LOCAL 751

8141 Schoon Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99518-3047

Phone: 907-522-8230 Fax:907-563-2855

apprenticeship@ironworkers751.org

AFFILIATED WITH **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE,
STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS**



Rob Rodeheaver

Apprenticeship Training Coordinator

March 19, 2021

RE: Support of HB 132

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Apprenticeship Coordinator of Ironworkers Local 751, I am writing this letter to express our support of House Bill 132 implementing a Registered Apprentice Tax Credit. This bill will promote opportunities and create jobs for registered apprentices, thereby strengthening training programs across the state.

Local 751's Apprenticeship Program takes place over the continuity of four years where you accumulate 6000 hours of hands-on-work with skilled ironworkers, as well as 860 hours of safety training in the classroom. Completing these requirements allows an apprentice to become a highly skilled tradesman.

This bill will encourage and promote contractors to employ apprentices, plus support the construction industry as a whole. I see day in and day out the difference that it makes when there are jobs available to send apprentices out to. We support HB 132 which allows Alaska's workplace to grow and thrive.

With Regards,

Rob Rodeheaver

Apprenticeship Training Coordinator

Ironworkers Local 751

907-382-9460



ALASKA IRONWORKERS LOCAL 751

8141 Schoon Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99518-3047

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AFFILIATED WITH **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE,
STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS**



Anthony Ladd

Business Manager

March 19, 2021

RE: Support of HB 132

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Business Manager of Ironworkers Local 751, I am writing this letter to express my support of House Bill 132 implementing a Registered Apprentice Tax Credit. This bill encourages and supports a consistent, dependable construction industry and the hiring of registered apprentices by contractors across the state.

Local 751's Apprenticeship Program allows an apprentice to become a highly skilled tradesman. In all trades, apprenticeship programs promote workforce development, as these apprentices hold the future of our economy in their hands.

I've had the privilege of going through the Local 751 Apprenticeship Program myself, which set me up for a very successful career as an Ironworker, and now as the Business Manager. I have seen first-hand that apprenticeship is a win-win for both employers and workers.

It is now more imperative than ever to support the apprenticeship programs already in place in order for Alaska's workplace to grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

Anthony Ladd

Business Manager & Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Ironworkers Local 751

907.590.9539



3/17/2021

To Whom It May Concern,

We employ apprentices in Alaska and are interested in workforce development in our state. Ketchikan Mechanical supports House Bill 132.

Melinda Pitcher

Controller | Office Manager

KETCHIKANMECHANICAL

1220 Copper Ridge Lane

Ketchikan, AK 99901

Main: (907) 225-9466

Fax: (907) 225-9467

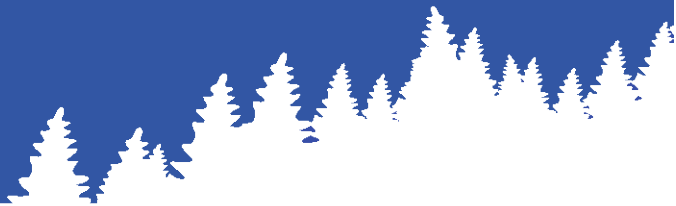
Melinda@ketchikanmechanical.com

HB 132 Support Statement

LONG Building Technologies employs apprentices in Alaska and supports HB 132 in its efforts to develop our workforce by providing apprentice training to post-secondary students. The program will clearly provide a path towards gainful employment and successful careers to those entering the trades.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Chris Bracken
Alaska Branch Manager
LONG Building Technologies



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Date: February 24, 2021

To: Representative Zach Fields

From: Patricia Zugg - *CTE Program Administrator*
Justin Ainsworth - *Assoc. Superintendent of Instruction, Technology & Career Ed*

Re: SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICESHIP BILL

Thank you for your efforts towards apprenticeship growth in Alaska. We welcome opportunities to support apprenticeship development across our CTE programs and would appreciate access to DOLWD support in these efforts inside our school systems.

Simply put, Career & Technical Education (CTE) works for students and adults. Apprenticeship is a pinnacle of work-based learning. It is a very successful and effective avenue for advanced entry into the workforce, with a seamless interweave of both contextual instruction and applied skills training.

Apprenticeship adds relevance to education and answers the question of "when will I ever use this". When focused and rigorous studies are embedded with skills and employability training; apprentices are immediately engaged in their futures, in lifelong learning, in financial security, and portable credentialing.

The partnership needed for successful apprenticeship are both the employer sponsor and the educator. We stand ready and excited to provide high quality career, technical and academic education aligned with apprenticeship agreements. We also stand ready to engage with the crucial employer sponsor. The employer sponsor ultimately congeals both partners into viable apprenticeships. Any ways that employer sponsors can be incentivized are greatly encouraged.

Affordability of postsecondary study is a barrier that apprenticeship naturally overcomes, it allows for apprentices to study and maintain a relevant income at the same time. A flow of consistent income allows apprentices to journey to mastery, to progress to a high wage - high demand career, while attending to life's simultaneous demands.

Further, we support this bill because it amplifies efforts and actions to match Alaskan labor market demand with training in Alaska. That will prove to be a great return on investment for Alaska!

Thank-you for all you do in support of apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship -or- school to apprenticeship, effective 21st Century CTE, workforce development, and for supporting varied postsecondary options for All Alaskans!



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UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

March 22, 2021

The Honorable Zack Fields
Alaska State House
State Capital Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for HB 132- SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS; TAX CREDITS

Dear Representative Fields,

I want to thank the House Labor & Commerce Committee for sponsoring HB 132, and offer our full support for this bill. We are grateful to see a bill that focuses on developing Alaska's next generation of skilled workers. Registered apprenticeships are good for workers and good for business, but we have long believed that we should strengthen the linkages between secondary schools and apprenticeship programs. We hope this bill will create greater alignment between the Departments of Labor and Education, the University of Alaska, and all registered apprenticeship programs, including those in the construction trades.

While many think of apprenticeship as a workforce development tool reserved only for the construction trades, the truth is that apprenticeship flourishes in Alaska in dozens of occupations, including health care, aviation, mining, and maritime. Registered apprenticeships also present opportunities for transitioning servicemen and women, who often struggle to translate the valuable skills they learned in the military into meaningful careers after their service. Currently, the Pacific Northwest Carpenters have 11 veterans enrolled in our apprenticeship program. Veterans are often some of our best and brightest apprentices, and become some of our most sought-after journeyman carpenters.

In high school, I struggled to maintain my focus in class, and felt that college wasn't the right path for me. Unfortunately, school counselors provided few other options. After several failed attempts at college, I was lucky enough to discover the Carpenters' apprenticeship program. After 7000 hours, working on a variety of project to hone my carpentry skills, I journeyed out of the program and began my career. Finding the Carpenters' apprenticeship program was one of the best things that ever happened to me. It has provided me a good-paying job, with health care and retirement benefits, and enabled me to raise a family right here in Juneau. But I wish that my high school teachers, counselors, and school administrators had steered me towards that career path much sooner.

We thank the committee for its commitment to workforce development. Alaska's youth deserve broad exposure to different career paths, including paths in vocational programs like registered apprenticeship. We support HB 132, which we hope will strengthen and expand Registered Apprenticeship in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Chris Dimond, Alaska Regional Manager
Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



Alaska Primary Care
ASSOCIATION

April 5, 2021

Representatives Zack Fields and Ivy Spohnholz, Co-Chairs
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for House Bill 132 – School Apprenticeship Programs; Tax Credits

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Fields and Spohnholz:

The Alaska Primary Care Association (APCA) supports the operations and development of Alaska's 29 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs and Look Alikes). Alaska Health Centers voted to support health workforce development initiatives that expand access to care in their 2021 Policy Priorities.

Many of Alaska Community Health Centers participate in APCA's Registered Apprenticeship program. In our current fiscal year, we have trained 74 new Apprentices and more will be added in the coming months. About 25% of our health care Apprentices are youth ages 14-24 as defined by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Apprenticeships provide a clear, meaningful, and supported pathway for students or new graduates to enter employment in their field of interest. Apprenticeships offer training while earning income and provide a career ladder for future promotion or advancement. This bill will provide critical support to school districts to engage students into Apprenticeships; this will have a positive impact on students who choose to enter health care Registered Apprenticeships when they turn 18 years old.

Finally, a refundable tax credit to employers for each qualifying registered apprentice will undoubtedly strengthen and broaden the overall health care Apprenticeship structure in our state. Health care employers, including Alaska Community Health Centers, struggle to find the resources to train their new staff into crucial positions. Apprentices, by design, are inexperienced and required far greater employer mentorship investment than a fully certified individual. This refundable tax credit, which will provide \$1000 per Apprentice or \$1500 if the Apprentice is a Veteran, will help alleviate these barriers and provide critical incentives to employers.

We urge passage of House Bill 132.

Sincerely,

Mari L. Selle

Mari L. Selle
Workforce Development Director