



The Voice of Merit Construction

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Mike Henderson

*President
Greater Baltimore Chapter
mhenderson@abcbaltimore.org*

Chris Garvey

*President & CEO
Chesapeake Shores Chapter
cgarvey@abc-chesapeake.org*

Dan Bond CAE

*President & CEO
Metro Washington Chapter
dbond@abcmetrowashington.org*

Tricia Baldwin

*Chairman
Joint Legislative Committee
tbaldwin@reliablecontracting.com*

Marcus Jackson

*Director of Government Affairs
Metro Washington Chapter
mjackson@abcmetrowashington.org*

*Additional representation by:
Harris Jones & Malone, LLC*

*6901 Muirkirk Meadows Drive
Suite F
Beltsville, MD 20705
(T) (301) 595-9711
(F) (301) 595-9718*

TO: ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

RE: H.B. 501 – REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP INVESTMENTS
FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY (RAISE) ACT

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland support H.B. 501 which is before you today for consideration. This bill offers critical improvements to Maryland's apprenticeship system, promising to strengthen our workforce, boost our economy, and provide valuable career pathways for Marylanders.

The authorization for the State Board of Plumbing and the Secretary of Labor to waive examination requirements for certain licenses for individuals who have completed registered apprenticeship programs is a common-sense approach. It recognizes the rigorous training and demonstrates competency gained through apprenticeships, streamlining the licensure process without compromising standards. This will help get skilled workers into the workforce more quickly, addressing critical labor shortages in various industries.

The establishment of the Maryland Office of Registered Apprenticeship Development is another vital step. By connecting businesses with skilled talent and individuals with valuable career opportunities, this office will be a catalyst for expanding and strengthening our apprenticeship system. In addition, the increased reporting requirements, including demographic data, will provide valuable insights into the apprenticeship system's effectiveness and help identify areas for improvement.

We believe that the creation of the Registered Apprenticeship Qualified Intermediary Program and the Maryland Apprenticeship Incentive Program, with dedicated funding, will further enhance the apprenticeship system. These programs will provide crucial support to employers and sponsors, encouraging greater participation in apprenticeship programs and helping to offset the costs associated with training new apprentices.

By strengthening our apprenticeship system, we can create a more skilled workforce, attract and retain businesses, and provide pathways to economic opportunity for all Marylanders.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report on H.B. 501.

Marcus Jackson, Director of
Government Affairs

