



Associated Builders
and Contractors, Inc.

**Maryland Joint
Legislative Committee**

The Voice of Merit Construction

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To: House Ways & Means Committee
From: Associated Builders & Contractors
RE: HB 837 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024
Position: Favorable

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) represent more than 1500 construction and construction-related companies through its four Maryland chapters. Our members believe in the tenets of free enterprise, investing in their workforce and giving back to the communities in which they live, work and play.

House Bill 837 generally requires local school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs in a manner similar how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

ABC is in support of HB 837, registered apprenticeship programs offer invaluable opportunities for individuals to gain hands-on experience, develop practical skills, and secure well-paying jobs in various trades and industries. By extending support to high school students in preparing for admission to these programs, we are opening doors to fulfilling careers and addressing the growing demand for skilled workers in our communities. HB 837 not only acknowledges the importance of vocational education but also underscores the significance of early preparation and exposure to diverse career options.

As an organization committed to promoting excellence in construction and workforce development, Associated Builders and Contractors believes that by empowering students to pursue apprenticeship opportunities, we are investing in the future of our workforce and fostering economic growth and prosperity for generations to come.

ABC appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 837.

*Martin "MJ" Kraska
Government Affairs Director
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