

Effective Apprenticeships Rebuild National Skills (EARNs) Act

Apprenticeships are a time-tested, worker-training strategy that provides benefits to both workers and employers. According to the Department of Labor, the post-apprenticeship employment rate is more than 87 percent and the average starting salary tops \$50,000 per year.¹

The Effective Apprenticeships Rebuild National Skills (EARNs) Act, introduced May 18, 2016, is a bipartisan solution that seeks to address the skills gap on a national scale. Effective apprenticeships pair on-the-job training with classroom instruction, and allows workers to earn a wage while they learn. While lawmakers are considering solutions to address concerns on the skills gap, SMRP believes that apprenticeship programs represent an obvious solution to current and anticipated worker shortages.

SMRP supports EARNs because it offers pre-apprenticeship programs and new or expanding registered apprenticeship programs that provide nationally recognized credentials and would help with earning academic credit. SMRP supports the following propositions of the legislation:

- Seeks a closer alignment between registered apprenticeship programs, workforce development system, and postsecondary educational programs.
- Aligns registered apprenticeship programs with other federal education and training programs and with state and local workforce development boards.
- Supports and promotes the development of pre-apprenticeship programs by investing in training with a required link to a registered apprenticeship placement.
- Authorize \$90 million for apprenticeships and allow for Congressional oversight and regular budgetary funding.
- Expand the diversity, and number of employers offering registered apprenticeships by making funds available to defray the upfront costs of creating a first apprenticeship program, or partnering with an existing registered apprenticeship program.
- Establishes a National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships, sets its membership, and tasks the Committee to make recommendations on streamlining the registration process and maintain standards.

SMRP is asking Congress to support the EARNs Act to ensure a lasting solution to skills gap and aging workforce. Encourage your Senator to support EARNs. For more information, please contact Chelsea Ritchie, critchie@smrp.org.

SMRP is a 5,000-member professional society formed to develop and promote excellence in the maintenance, reliability, and physical asset management industry. Maintenance and reliability jobs are skilled positions that provide competitive advantages to the companies that employ them. SMRP members consist of engineers, operations managers, repair and reliability technicians, worksite and project planners, and other service providers.

¹Registered Apprenticeship - Earn. Learn. Succeed, Employment & Training Administration (ETA) - U.S. Department of Labor. (2016, April 21). Retrieved July 11, 2016, from <https://www.doleta.gov/oa/grants.cfm>