



To: Wisconsin State Senators
From: Andrew Disch
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
Date: February 21, 2022
RE: Support for SB 981 incentives for apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship completion

The skilled trades offer a financially lucrative and personally rewarding career with zero student loan debt through registered apprenticeship. Carpenters Union apprentices graduate with great wages, insurance, benefits and lifelong skills. However, apprentices are responsible for certain out-of-pocket expenses needed to equip them with the tools of the trade so they can achieve success on the construction site.

Senate Bill 981 will reduce cost burdens and pave the way for more Wisconsin residents to pursue these fulfilling careers in trades. Some key highlights in the bill that will assist Carpenter apprentices include:

Expanding the Apprenticeship Completion Award Program (ACAP)

- Expands ACAP grant eligibility so apprentices can receive reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs associated with their instruction for tools, jobsite clothing and safety equipment
- Expands the program to include youth apprenticeship (YA)

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grants

- Adds construction work to the list of eligible high-need occupations for a one-time \$500 student completion grant award for high schoolers

Wisconsin State Income Tax Deduction

- Provides parity by allowing for a state income tax deduction for eligible out-of-pocket costs associated with registered apprenticeship like tools, jobsite clothing, safety equipment and travel to training centers

Dual Enrollment

- Require the technical college system to afford dual enrollment and dual credit for adult apprenticeship technical college courses taught to high school students to facilitate transition into adult apprenticeships.