



To: State Legislators
From: Andrew Disch
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
Date: February 10, 2022
RE: Support for AB 973 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.

This proposal 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 our apprentices include:

Expanding the Apprenticeship Completion Award Program (ACAP)

- Allows for the reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs associated with registered apprenticeship like tools, jobsite clothing and safety equipment
- Expands the program to include youth apprenticeship (YA)

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grants

- Provides adequate funding for these grants which help school districts offset the costs associated with implementing job-based learning and industry-recognized credentials
- Adds the construction workers to the list of eligible high-need occupations to be eligible for the special \$500 student completion award

Wisconsin State Income Tax Deduction

- Allows for a state income tax deduction for eligible out-of-pocket costs associated with registered apprenticeship like tools, jobsite clothing and safety equipment.



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.