



RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR STATE SKILLS AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the availability of a highly skilled workforce is necessary to support growth and innovation in industries such as manufacturing, health care, telecommunications, biotechnology, information technology, energy, and transportation and logistics; and

WHEREAS, the nation's industries face challenges to attract new and more diverse talent pools, replace a long serving and experienced workforce, and close gaps in workers' skills and credentials; and

WHEREAS, skills, pre-apprenticeship, and apprenticeship programs provide significant benefits for both businesses and employees; and

WHEREAS apprenticeship programs correlate to lower turnover costs, improved employee retention rates, and increased productivity; and

WHEREAS, the average return on investment for an apprenticeship program is \$1.47 for every dollar spent; and

WHEREAS, skills, pre-apprenticeship, and apprenticeship programs, starting in high school are vital to improving post-high school opportunities for students and out-of-school youth; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeship programs provide enrollees on-the-job training, occupation focused education, and access to nationally recognized industry credentials; and

WHEREAS, on average apprentices earn \$50,000 per year through employer-paid training programs that allow for the completion of two- or four-year degrees; and

WHEREAS, state apprenticeship agencies provide an integral role in ensuring the success of apprenticeships by registering, overseeing, and promoting programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges the federal Executive and Legislative branches to support increased federal funding for state skills, pre-apprenticeship, and apprenticeship programs.

Adopted by The Council of State Governments' Executive Committee this 16th Day of December, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada.