

## House Committee Approves NDA-Backed Workforce Legislation

This week, the House Education and Workforce Committee approved two bipartisan NDA-backed bills to address labor shortages, strengthen workforce development, and better align educational opportunities with workforce needs. The committee approved H.R. 6655, *A Stronger Workforce for America Act*, which reauthorizes and updates the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for the first time in nearly a decade. The WIOA is the primary law that implements federal workforce development programs. The bill makes significant improvements to WIOA that will boost the amount of skills development provided under the law, build stronger connections between employers and the workforce system, and put more individuals on track to a successful career. A summary of the bill can be [found here](#).

The committee also approved H.R. 6585, *the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act*, which expands Pell Grant eligibility to include high-quality, short-term training programs and provides opportunities for students and workers to gain new skills in high-demand fields. Both bills cleared the committee with near unanimous support and will now go to the full House of Representatives for consideration. A summary of the bill can be [found here](#).

NDA has prioritized workforce development legislation in advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and has raised awareness among lawmakers about the vital need to improve America's workforce development system. Earlier this year, [NDA urged the House Education and Workforce Committee](#) to reauthorize WIOA and approve the Pell Act and will now be advocating for passage of both bills on the House floor and Senate.

## House Committee Advances NDA-Backed Resolution to Overturn Joint Employer Rule

On Tuesday, the House Education and Workforce Committee approved a resolution to overturn the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) final rule to alter the standard for determining joint employer status. The Congressional Review Act allows Congress to overturn regulations proposed by federal agencies. The resolution passed the committee on a party-line vote of 25-20 and will now advance to the full House of Representatives.

Earlier this month, NDA [came out in support](#) of this resolution and has been working with Members of Congress to garner support for the legislation on Capitol Hill. NDA has significant concerns with NLRB's final rule to redefine the joint employer relationship and its potential impact on demolition contractors and small businesses.

The NLRB recently announced in a court filing they were delaying the implementation of the [final rule](#) to Feb. 26, 2024. The NLRB's announcement came in response to a lawsuit filed by business groups in a federal court in Texas as well as concerns from Congress that NLRB was violating federal rulemaking procedures.

## IRS Issues Standard Mileage Rates for 2024

Yesterday, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [issued the 2024 optional standard mileage rates](#) used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2024, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 67 cents per mile driven for business use, up 1.5 cents from 2023.
- 21 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes for qualified active-duty members of the Armed Forces, a decrease of 1 cent from 2023.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations; the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2023.

These rates apply to electric and hybrid-electric automobiles as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles. The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

[Notice 2024-08](#) contains the optional 2024 standard mileage rates, as well as the maximum automobile cost used to calculate the allowance under a fixed and variable rate (FAVR) plan. In addition, the notice provides the maximum fair market value of employer-provided automobiles first made available to employees for personal use in calendar year 2024 for which employers may use the fleet-average valuation rule in or the vehicle cents-per-mile valuation rule.

### **DOL Announces Rule to Modernize Registered Apprenticeships**

On Thursday, the Department of Labor (DOL) announced a [notice of proposed rulemaking](#) to alter the National Apprenticeship System by modernizing regulations for Registered Apprenticeships. According to DOL, the proposed rule would include the following changes:

- Strengthening of labor standards, quality and worker protections by making occupational skills and training more portable, enhancing alignment with postsecondary education and providing better performance data.
- Better defining roles for State Apprenticeship Agencies and other stakeholders within the National Apprenticeship System.
- Codifies the Office of Apprenticeship's role for national leadership, promotion and standards.
- Promoting apprenticeship pathways, including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship readiness programs, by expanding performance and data requirements to improve accountability, transparency and program outcomes.
- Creating a student-centric model of Registered Apprenticeship, called Registered Career and Technical Education Apprenticeship designed to make them more seamless for full-time high school and community college students to enroll in a Registered Apprenticeship. This approach is modeled after high-quality youth apprenticeship systems in states across the country.

Once the rule is published in the Federal Register, stakeholders will have 60 days to provide public comments. NDA is currently reviewing the proposed rule and will be prepared to respond on behalf of the demolition industry.