



September 20, 2024

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
455 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Urgent Action Needed on Workforce Development Legislation

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

The National Demolition Association (NDA) represents nearly 500 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard demolition services as well as a full range of demolition-related services and products. NDA educates members on the latest advances in equipment and services, provides educational programs and tools to stay abreast of regulatory and safety matters and keeps regulators informed about issues in our industry. NDA also increases public awareness of the economic and societal benefits of demolition.

NDA writes today to urge the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee to introduce and move bipartisan legislation to the Senate floor that would reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and strengthen the workforce development system. Since WIOA was last reauthorized in 2014, employers in the demolition industry have faced unprecedented challenges in hiring and retaining skilled workers. According to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released on Sept. 4, 2024, there are currently 7.6 million job openings in the United States, which includes 248,000 unfilled job openings in the construction industry alone.¹

The economic data acutely conveys the difficult challenges facing employers and the urgent need to pass legislation that will encourage a robust and skilled labor force. Looking beyond current conditions in the job market, labor shortages and a shrinking skilled worker pipeline threaten the future of the construction industry and U.S. economy. To address these pressing workforce challenges, NDA supports workforce legislation that includes new employer tax credits to recruit and train workers, improved programs for career and technical education, and enhanced apprenticeship and job training opportunities.

NDA was encouraged to see the House of Representatives come together in a bipartisan fashion to pass H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act. NDA urges the Senate HELP Committee to build on the principles of H.R. 6655 and craft proposals 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.

¹ Press release, "Job Openings and Labor Turnover, August 2024," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 4, 2024

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and if you have any questions, please contact NDA's Director of Government Affairs Alex McIntyre at amcintyre@demolitionassociation.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lambert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeff Lambert
Chief Executive Officer
National Demolition Association (NDA)