

H.R. 6377 - Apprentice-Related Child Care (ARCC) Act

Representatives Henry Cuellar (TX-28), Suzanne Bonamici (OR-1), Donald Norcross (NJ-1), and Debbie Dingell (MI-6) are leading a bill to support Americans enrolled in Registered Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeship programs cover the cost of child care. The **Apprentice-Related Child Care (ARCC) Act** would establish a child care stipend pilot program available to Americans enrolled in these programs.

Summary

The **ARCC Act** would establish a two-year pilot program at the Department of Labor (DOL). Authorized at \$200 million over Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, the bill directs the DOL to establish a competitive grant program, awarding grants to ten geographically diverse states for the purposes of administering child care stipends to American workers enrolled in Registered Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeship programs.

Stipends are paid directly to child care providers serving apprentices and must be at least \$500 per month, per dependent child. When administering child care stipends, states must include groups that are historically underrepresented in apprenticeships, including women and people of color. At the conclusion of the pilot program, DOL must report to Congress on the impact of these stipends, including any effect on persistence and completion rates. The stipends are not subject to income tax and not counted toward eligibility for public benefit programs.

Background

The number of Registered Apprenticeships in the U.S. has grown by more than 60 percent in the last decade. For those who graduate, the benefits are immense: over 90 percent of workers who complete Registered Apprenticeships gain employment, earn an average annual salary of \$77,000, and see their lifetime earnings go up by an average of \$300,000.

Despite the success of the apprenticeship system, apprentices still face financial barriers to completion—particularly those with dependent children. The average annual price of child care in the United States has increased nearly 220 percent over the past three decades. Accordingly, studies show that apprentices cite difficulty finding child care as a leading cause for leaving apprenticeship programs.

Endorsements

North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA), International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART), United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC), United Association of Union Plumbers & Pipefitters (UA), International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association (OPCMIA) & Third Way.