

## **What people are saying about the *Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act***

*“Over the past two centuries, we established free primary and secondary education and public two- and four-year colleges in every state. Now, we must add the missing piece, making apprenticeships a ubiquitous part of our educational system. Senator Coons’ legislation takes an essential first step to making that a reality. It is the exact kind of approach that we should be taking as a nation, and we applaud his leadership and commitment to this critical issue.”* – **Gabe Horwitz, Senior Vice President, Economic Program, Third Way**

*“Over the course of generations and across geographic boundaries, apprenticeship has proven to be an effective means of preparing a new workforce. Sadly, we are seeing fewer and fewer of our young people accessing this vital resource and our industries are suffering for it. The problem is only compounded by the rising age of the average employee in the skilled trades and it is now on the verge of reaching crisis proportions. The Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act provides a powerful tool to address the skills gap head on by informing young people across our nation, and the influential people in their lives, about the benefits of apprenticeship and involving the industries who have the most at stake directly in the process of identifying and employing apprenticeship-based solutions. I am grateful to Senators Coons and Young and Congressmen Norcross and McKinley for their leadership in sponsoring this legislation.”* – **Jeremy McEntire, Assistant Director, Polytech Adult Education, Dover, Delaware**

*“The Chamber believes that apprenticeship programs are central to the continued economic prosperity of the United States. These programs help employers address the growing challenge of an untrained and underprepared workforce due to the lack of training opportunities. We applaud Senator Coons for his leadership and commitment to supporting our region’s business community in its need for a wider network of talent.”* – **Rob Wonderling, President & CEO, The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia**

*“JFF’s Center for Apprenticeship and Work-Based learning applauds this bi-partisan effort to encourage and support the growth of apprenticeship intermediaries. These intermediaries play a critical role in organizing and expanding high quality apprenticeship programs that help workers obtain the skills to succeed and help businesses grow and compete in the global economy. Over the last several years, there has been an emergence of new intermediaries including community colleges, workforce boards, private firms, community-based organizations, and industry associations, among others, that make it easier and more efficient for employers to develop and register high quality apprenticeship programs. This bill will support these on-going efforts to expand the proven practice of apprenticeships.”* – **Eric Seleznow, Senior Advisor, Jobs For the Future (JFF)**

*“Expanding access to high-quality apprenticeship opportunities for more Americans demands the continued expansion of apprenticeship into growing, high demand industry sectors, like healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing and financial services. But employers of all sizes in these sectors lack experience with apprenticeship and need help setting up and running programs to meet their talent needs. The Apprenticeship Hubs Across America Act addresses this critical challenge by making essential investments in intermediaries that can work in states and cities across the country to make it easier for more employers to start apprenticeship programs, and expand these opportunities to more American students and workers.”* – **Brent Parton, Deputy Director, Center on Education & Skills, New America**

**Full list of supporting organizations:**

- American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
- Delaware Polytech Adult Education
- Jobs For the Future (JFF)
- National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE)
- New America
- North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU)
- Small Business Majority
- Third Way