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SUMMARY OF THE STUDENT APPRENTICESHIP ACT

Even with low national unemployment, seven million job positions remain vacant due to a lack of domestic talent with the skills companies need. According to recent reports from ADP and Moody's Analytics, it is becoming increasingly difficult for employers to find skilled talent, despite consistent job gains, and many employers struggle to find skilled workers due to a misalignment between postsecondary education and the skills needed in a 21st century workplace.

The Student Apprenticeship Act would close the gap between higher education and labor by modernizing workforce training and catalyzing the growth of registered apprenticeships nationwide.

Specifically, the Student Apprenticeship Act would:

1. Promote Collaboration Between Higher Education, Employers, and Labor

The bill creates a grant program that aligns institutions of higher education, employers, and workforce intermediaries to create apprenticeship opportunities for students:

- As a student *and* an apprentice, participants would work to earn college credit *and* an industry credential while their employers pay them;
- Employers would pay at least 25 percent of the student's college tuition and fees;
- Student-apprentices would earn credits for their work that count towards their degree and their industry credential.

2. Create Competitive Grants to Drive Apprenticeships Expansion

The bill supports the expansion of registered apprenticeships by providing institutions of higher education, employers, and workforce intermediaries with funds to offset the costs associated with developing and implementing student-apprenticeships. This includes:

- Developing curricula and standards;
- Developing on-the-job learning, mentoring, and additional supervision;
- Purchasing updated equipment; and
- Supporting services such as tutoring, transportation, child care, and housing subsidies.

3. Update Federal Work Study Programs

The bill updates the federal work-study program to allow apprenticeship programs to qualify as work-study programs, so eligible students (who demonstrate financial need) earn additional funds to pay their tuition through work that aligns with their coursework and their intended career path.

The Student Apprenticeship Act is supported by Advance CTE, American Association of Community Colleges, Arapahoe Community College, Association for Career and Technical Education, CareerWise Colorado, Center for Law and Social Policy, the Colorado Community College System, Harper College, Jobs for the Future, National Association of Workforce Boards, New America, Third Way, Small Business Majority, and Year Up.