



February 2, 2024

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: SMACNA Asks Co-sponsorship of H.R. 6377, The Apprentice-Related Childcare Act**

Dear Representative:

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) is supported by more than 3,500 construction firms engaged in industrial, commercial, residential, architectural and specialty sheet metal and air conditioning construction throughout the United States. SMACNA's membership includes thousands of industry leading firms, all investing in Joint Apprenticeship Training Centers (JATCs). Our highly skilled and trained workforce is second to none. **On behalf of our membership, I express our strongest support for H.R. 6377, The Apprentice-Related Childcare Act (ARCC). This important legislation, sponsored by Representative Cuellar (D-TX-28) with 38 cosponsors,** would establish a competitive grant program to award ten geographically diverse state grants. These grants would administer childcare stipends to a limited number of workers enrolled in **registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs**. This innovative federal apprenticeship grant initiative would meet a large and growing problem for skilled apprenticeship recruitment and addresses an emerging barrier for countless young construction apprentices nationwide. The ARCC would also inspire many industry's JATCs to build upon its reforms long advocated by responsible federal contractor organizations.

Our members specialize in private contracting as well as public work projects involving energy saving performance contracting, facility energy management and residential, commercial, public, and industrial sector construction. Based upon our extensive experience supporting registered apprenticeship, **we offer our enthusiastic support for H.R. 6377.** The proposal is a long overdue legislative effort to enhance and expand registered apprenticeship while responding to the nation's severe and growing skilled labor shortage crisis. Helping responsible businesses and their workforce partners increase registered apprenticeship opportunities will better serve national construction quality and value on countless and highly complex federal and private projects.

**We urge your support and co-sponsorship of H.R. 6377, The Apprentice-Related Childcare Act (ARCC).**

Sincerely,

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