

United States Senate

June 25, 2020

John Pallasch
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Pallasch:

I wish to express my strong support for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's application to the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration for the "Building State Capacity to Expand Apprenticeship through Innovation" grant program [TEGL 15-19], submitted on May 21, 2020. The state will use this grant to strategically scale the registered apprenticeship program model to expand skills training opportunities in Michigan. This grant to support apprenticeships would benefit a range of Michigan stakeholders, including employers of all sizes, labor organizations, workforce development entities, educators, parents, students and workers.

Michigan's receipt of this grant to increase quality apprenticeship opportunities would accelerate the professional and economic growth of an estimated over 5,230 workers in the state. Upon completion of a registered apprenticeship, workers would immediately be equipped to fill some of over 547,000 openings projected by employers in high-skills, high-wage, in-demand careers. The growth in qualified workers would help grow critical sectors like Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Energy, Health Care, Information Technology, and Mobility. The state would use regional implementation consortia to provide local sub-awards, receiving guidance from a state Advisory Board with membership from industry, labor, and the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education. Funds would be used to establish new or expand existing registered apprenticeship programs and related readiness education and certification.

Especially as the state experiences record unemployment levels and disruptions in education and training pathways due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, leveraging the effective registered apprenticeship program model to help Michiganders gain the skills needed to fill in-demand and good-paying jobs is all the more essential. I urge you to closely consider and honor the Michigan Department of Labor's application for the "Building State Capacity to Expand Apprenticeship through Innovation" grant program.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator