

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5105

To establish a coalition to promote educational opportunities preparing individuals for careers in the defense industrial base, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 27, 2021

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma (for herself and Mr. NORCROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish a coalition to promote educational opportunities preparing individuals for careers in the defense industrial base, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Defense
5 Workforce Opportunity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE COALITION FOR CA-**
7 **REER DEVELOPMENT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Defense
9 for Acquisition and Sustainment shall establish and man-
10 age a coalition among institutions of higher education, vo-

1 cational programs, workforce development boards, labor
2 organizations, and organizations representing defense in-
3 dustrial base contractors to focus on career development
4 for individuals seeking careers in manufacturing. The
5 goals of the coalition shall be—

6 (1) to highlight the importance of expertise in
7 manufacturing careers;

8 (2) to share experiences of successful partner-
9 ships between such organizations and institutions of
10 higher education to create opportunities for individ-
11 uals attending such institutions to be hired by de-
12 fense industrial base contractors; and

13 (3) to encourage opportunities for donating
14 used equipment of defense industrial base contrac-
15 tors to institutions of higher education for use in
16 training such individuals.

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of De-
19 fense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in coordination
20 with the coalition established under subsection (a), shall
21 submit to the congressional defense committees a report
22 including—

23 (1) the results of any cooperative work-edu-
24 cation program established by defense laboratories

1 pursuant to section 2195 of title 10, United States
2 Code;

3 (2) an assessment of whether such programs
4 could be expanded to include individuals attending
5 secondary schools and vocational programs to create
6 opportunities for such individuals to be hired by de-
7 fense industrial base contractors; and

8 (3) recommendations for whether incentive con-
9 tracts are needed to encourage defense industrial
10 base contractors to provide career development for
11 individuals seeking careers in manufacturing.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE CON-
14 TRACTOR.—The term “defense industrial base con-
15 tractor” means a prime contractor or subcontractor
16 (at any tier) in the defense industrial base.

17 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
18 term “institution of higher education” means section
19 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
20 U.S.C. 1001).

21 (3) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term “labor
22 organization” has the meaning given such term in
23 section 2(5) of the National Labor Relations Act (29
24 U.S.C. 152(5)).

1 (4) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
2 ondary school” has the meaning given in section
3 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

5 (5) VOCATIONAL PROGRAM.—The term “voca-
6 tional program” has the meaning given the term
7 “area career and technical education school” in sec-
8 tion 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
9 Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

10 (6) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.—The
11 term “workforce development board” means a State
12 board or a local board, as such terms are defined in
13 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
14 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

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