

Department of Labor and Related Agencies

- **Congress should expand apprenticeship programs outside of the RAP model, re-creating the IRAP system by statute and allowing approved entities such as trade associations and educational institutions to recognize and oversee apprenticeship programs.**

In addition, religious organizations should be encouraged to participate in apprenticeship programs. America has a long history of religious organizations working to advance the dignity of workers and provide them with greater opportunity, from the many prominent Christian and Jewish voices in the early labor movement to the “labor priests” who would appear on picket lines to support their flocks. Today, the role of religion in helping workers has diminished, but a country committed to strengthening civil society must ask more from religious organizations and make sure that their important role is not impeded by regulatory roadblocks or the bureaucratic status quo.

- **Encourage and enable religious organizations to participate in apprenticeship programs, etc.** Both DOL and NLRB should facilitate religious organizations helping to strengthen working families via apprenticeship programs, worker organizations, vocational training, benefits networks, etc.

**Hazard-Order Regulations.** Some young adults show an interest in inherently dangerous jobs. Current rules forbid many young people, even if their family is running the business, from working in such jobs. This results in worker shortages in dangerous fields and often discourages otherwise interested young workers from trying the more dangerous job. With parental consent and proper training, certain young adults should be allowed to learn and work in more dangerous occupations. This would give a green light to training programs and build skills in teenagers who may want to work in these fields.

- **DOL should amend its hazard-order regulations to permit teenage workers access to work in regulated jobs with proper training and parental consent.**

**Workforce Training Grant Program.** The federal government spends more than \$100 billion per year subsidizing higher education but close to zero supporting people on non-college pathways.

- **Congress should create an employer grant worth up to \$10,000 per year or pro-rated portion thereof for each worker engaged in**