

NDA Submits Comments to Senate on Demolition Workforce Challenges

This week, NDA [submitted comments](#) to the U.S. Senate for a hearing on small business workforce development challenges and labor shortages which was hosted by the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. NDA highlighted the labor challenges facing demolition contractors and urged Congress to work together on bipartisan solutions to address the “skills gap” in the economy. NDA outlined its positions on several pieces of legislation that will strengthen the nation’s workforce development system and help alleviate labor shortages in essential industries, such as demolition.

House Passes Legislation to Boost Workforce Development

This week, the House of Representatives passed bipartisan legislation to boost workforce development and assist small businesses in finding and hiring qualified workers.

The first bill approved by the House, the Small Business Workforce Pipeline Act (H.R. 7622), would empower Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) to help small businesses establish and improve their apprenticeship and job training programs. SBDCs work with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide a suite of counseling and training services to small businesses, and this would be an added area of support offered by SBDCs.

Second, the House passed the Supporting Small Business and Career and Technical Education Act (H.R. 7664) which would direct the SBA’s Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and Women’s Business Centers (WBCs) to assist small businesses in hiring graduates from career and technical education programs, in addition to the existing services SBDCs and WBCs provide. The bill also supports career and technical education graduates by directing SBDCs and WBCs to assist them in starting up a small business.

NDA supports both pieces of legislation and will be lobbying for their passage in the Senate. NDA has been working during the last several months to raise awareness in Congress on the need to prioritize legislation that will help alleviate labor shortages for small businesses.

DOL Announces Rulemaking on Independent Contractor Status

Last Friday, the Department of Labor (DOL) [announced plans](#) to engage in a rulemaking on determining employee or independent contractor status under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The Biden Administration is seeking to ensure that employees are recognized correctly when they are employees so that they receive the protections under the FLSA.

In January of 2021, the Trump Administration issued a final rule on the classification of independent contractors which provided additional flexibility to employers. However, the Biden Administration has been attempting to reverse the final rule since last year. The DOL has not indicated when they plan to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on the classification of independent contractors. NDA will be closely monitoring that status of this rulemaking and is prepared to engage DOL on behalf of the demolition industry.