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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

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April 27, 2026

## **VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable Orice Williams Brown  
Acting Comptroller General  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Williams Brown,

The National Apprenticeship System recognizes valuable paid training programs that offer workers a secure path to employment and meaningful wages. The number of Registered Apprenticeship Programs is rising in industries that have traditionally not participated in the National Apprenticeship System, such as health care, teaching, and advanced manufacturing.<sup>1</sup>

The National Apprenticeship System should welcome and encourage all industries to develop and register apprenticeship programs. The National Apprenticeship Act (codified as amended at 29 U.S.C. § 50 et seq.), is the foundational legislation for the National Apprenticeship System. Enacted to protect apprentices and promote labor standards, it authorized the Secretary of Labor to establish standards and promote and regulate apprenticeship programs.

Entities involved in registering and overseeing Registered Apprenticeship Programs include the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship (OA), recognized State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA), and their associated State Apprenticeship Councils. Both the OA and SAAs provide technical assistance and support to existing and prospective program sponsors, guide partners on each phase of developing a program, connect businesses to training providers, and advise partners on available funding sources to support apprenticeships, among other things.

We ask that GAO conduct an examination of the following:

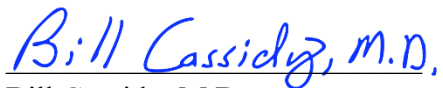
- 1) How, if at all, do practices of the OA, SAAs recognized by the OA, and State Apprenticeship Councils vary from one another; and whether varying practices result in inconsistent processes among States for purposes of registering an apprenticeship program under the National Apprenticeship Act;

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<sup>1</sup>Andrew Krantz and Margaux Lieser, Mathematica, Emerging Occupations in Registered Apprenticeship (December 1, 2025), <https://www.mathematica.org/publications/emerging-occupations-in-registered-apprenticeship>.

- 2) Describe how SAAs implement the requirement under section 29 U.S.C. § 29.13(a)(2) that a State Apprenticeship Council be either regulatory or advisory;
- 3) To what extent documentation requirements and processes that a State may require for a program seeking to be a Registered Apprenticeship Program are duplicative or in addition to the documentation requirements and processes imposed on such a program by the Secretary of Labor; and
- 4) How multi-State registered apprenticeship sponsors navigate varying State occupational licensure requirements.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Chairman

U.S. Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor, and Pensions