



SUPPORT & EXPAND APPRENTICESHIP



Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO 2022 Workers' Recovery Agenda

SBs 5600 and 5764 promote family-wage career opportunities, support students, and help meet labor demands in sectors ready for skilled workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the most disruptive employment events since the Great Depression. Entire sectors of the economy shut down for months and workers, students, and their families adjusted to circumstances they had never imagined possible. As a result, the so-called Great Resignation has followed a brief recession as workers seek new opportunities at better jobs with higher wages.

To meet this massive employment shift, the Legislature must advance bills to support students and workers, and meet the demand in sectors ready for their skills and motivation.

That's why the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO supports SB 5600 sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines) and SB 5764 sponsored by Sen. Emily Randall (D-Bremerton).

SB 5600 – Apprenticeship Sustainability – This legislation establishes the infrastructure necessary to grow current, proven, apprenticeship programs, and to establish them in new industries. More students and workers interested in careers in healthcare, manufacturing, grocery, construction, and others will have access to the “earn-while-you-learn” model to achieve credentials for family sustaining careers.

- Establishes sector based platforms to support unions and employers in developing apprenticeship in their industries.
- Provides resources for apprentices and

apprenticeship programs to:

- Modernize technology and establish remote learning options;
 - Update necessary equipment; and
 - Provide wrap-around services for apprentices like childcare and transportation assistance.
- Ensures that new apprenticeship programs seeking state recognition demonstrate living wages, career ladders, or the existence of non-wage benefits.

SB 5764 – Apprenticeship & Higher Education –

This bill creates more parity between apprentices and community college students when accessing financial aid and when seeking academic credit for experience.

- Aligns the Washington College Grant for full-time apprentices to the maximum award for community college students.
- Improves the process for apprentices to access the Washington College Grant, and removes barriers for apprenticeship programs and college financial aid offices to assist.
- Studies pathways available for apprentices to build on their experience to earn academic degrees, if they choose to, and reviews the current funding model for apprentices within the college system.
- Establishes processes for journey card holders to receive academic credit recognition for their training and experience.

In addition to Supporting & Expanding Apprenticeship Programs, the WSLC is supporting a range of issues that address economic opportunity and justice. Learn more at www.wslc.org or www.TheStand.org.

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