WHEREAS, Employers continue to need highly skilled employees to fill jobs in nearly all sectors of our economy. The workforce dislocation of the COVID pandemic has generally recovered, and job growth has been robust, and

WHEREAS, the potential for an expanded registered apprenticeship program in the United States can help workers reconnect to the economy while enhancing their skills and opportunities, and

WHEREAS, innovative new registered apprenticeship programs in non-traditional economic sectors such as health care, technology, and personal services will open pathways for increased diversity and inclusion in those occupations, and

WHEREAS, the traditional “earn while you learn,” approach of registered apprenticeship will reduce economic barriers to higher skilled occupations that currently are limited to paid tuition and fee based courses, and

WHEREAS, the traditional “on-the-job” learning requirements of registered apprenticeship are a successful learning style for many students who prefer learning skills through hands-on experience in addition to tradition classroom coursework, and

WHEREAS, providing incentives to employers to participate in registered apprenticeship programs in non-traditional sectors through tax policies and apprentice utilization agreements, when combined with long-term employer commitments, will establish a sustainable future for apprenticeship programs, and

WHEREAS, the success of traditional registered apprenticeship programs that are financially sustainable and jointly managed create tens of thousands high wage and
high skilled jobs to ensure future generations of skilled apprentices for high demand occupations in our country, and

WHEREAS, replicating the success of traditional registered apprenticeship programs to non-traditional occupations will take significant resources and support from the United States Department of Labor,

WHEREAS, there are very successful apprenticeship programs in the United States and throughout the world,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCSL support federal initiatives and funding to expand state registered apprenticeship programs into both non-traditional occupations and careers, and also traditional apprenticeships or federal registered apprenticeship programs in states that do not have state registered apprenticeship programs considering best practices and policies found in other countries.