



# ROB STAFSHOLT

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## **Testimony on Assembly Bill 734**

### **Assembly Committee on Workforce Development**

### **January 10, 2018**

Thank you Chairman Petryk and members of the Assembly Committee on Workforce Development for hearing Assembly bill 734 relating to creating individual and corporate income and franchise tax deductions for tuition paid for apprenticeship programs.

I am very proud to be a part of the Rural Wisconsin Initiative and to do my part in improving educational tools, workforce development, and the lives of people from my neck of the woods, rural Wisconsin.

This bill creates a tax deduction for individuals or corporations that have individuals participating in apprenticeship programs. Currently all tuition for schooling programs that are approved by the Department of Workforce Development qualifies as tax deductible, but apprenticeship programs are not included. The purpose of this bill is to level that playing field.

Apprenticeship programs are part of Wisconsin's solid foundation of hard-working Americans, and they are the gateway to many family sustaining careers across the state, particularly in rural Wisconsin. People participating in educational apprenticeship programs should be eligible for the same tax deductions that students in other types of education receive. By ensuring that all educational opportunities are tax deductible, we will help support the effort to get more young people into solid, family-supporting careers in rural areas.

Again, thank you members of the committee for allowing me to testify on Assembly Bill 734. I would appreciate your support.

Thank you.

Rob Stafsholt

29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Wisconsin Chapter**

**Assembly Committee on Workforce Development  
Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 734  
Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin, Inc.**

January 10, 2018

Thank you, Chairman Petryk, for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 734 and I thank Representative Stafsholt and Senator Moulton for introducing this legislation.

I am John Mielke, President of Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin, a construction trade association made up of nearly 900 member firms. We currently train approximately 1,300 apprentices in 12 different trades under a Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards approved program. On behalf of those apprentices and the companies that employ them, I am testifying in favor of AB 734.

Current statutes allow claimants to deduct tuition expenses paid to attend a university, college, or technical college. However, because apprenticeship program sponsors deliver apprenticeship training in a variety of ways (some at WTCS schools, some not) it is not always clear that the tuition expense is deductible. Also, there are times when the apprenticeship program sponsor is a third-party payer of WTCS tuition, further complicating the issue.

This bill clarifies that tuition expense paid to participate in an apprenticeship program is deductible, treating apprentices like other college and technical college students.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.