

April 11, 2019
CC Rep. Alan Baker

Dear Representatives Faust, Jackson, McMillan, Shiver, and Simpson,

On behalf of the Baldwin County Chamber Coalition, we are asking you to support the Alabama Industry Recognized and Registered Apprenticeship Program Act (HB108). This plan, introduced by Rep. Alan Baker and Terri Collins, aims to administer state apprenticeship programs locally, will increase potential apprenticeship tax credit for employers, increase the number of apprentices per employer, and provide an additional credit per in-school youth.

The benefits to this program are tremendous: helping to expose students to job opportunities, training candidates in relevant job skills, providing students with higher education credit for their on-the-job-training, and increasing retention within individual businesses.

The demand for skilled, motivated, engaged, and available workforce is high in Baldwin County and across the state of Alabama. Youth and adult apprenticeship programs similar to those kicking off in Baldwin County are working successfully in other parts of the country – we must not only follow suit, but instead *lead the charge* in the United States for growing and developing our youth on behalf of American businesses.

It is critical to Baldwin County, its 14 municipalities, our 3,600 business members, and educational system partners that this program passes. Please take this opportunity to support this plan in an effort to improve the culture of workforce and career development in the great state of Alabama.

Sincerely,

The Baldwin County Chamber Coalition



Ashley Jean Davis

[Signature]

Donna H. Watts

Corey Ray Williams

Craig Alexander