



The future of America's construction workers and the integrity of our industry is at risk. A new proposal by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) could drive down training and labor standards in construction registered apprenticeship programs and set off a race to the bottom throughout our industry.



And we have a less than a month to stop it.

- The DOL proposed regulations to implement Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs). The new IRAP system will give private organizations, such as employers and trade associations, free rein to create new watered-down standards and certify subpar apprenticeship programs.
- IRAPs have no place in construction.
- The construction industry is, by its very nature, among the most dangerous industries. To guard against industry's inherent dangers and promote first-rate work, workers must receive the highest quality education and training. For over 80 years, Registered Apprenticeship Programs have provided just that.
- The proposed IRAPs differ significantly from Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Construction registered programs help recruit, train and retain workers through progressive wage increases; apprentice-to-journeyworker ratios that promote safety; quality assurance assessments by the government; uniform standards; mandatory safety training; instructor eligibility requirements; and transparency requirements. The proposed IRAP regulations abandon the important protections of the registered model and give employers license to implement whatever low-road standards they see fit.
- Second-rate IRAP certifications would undermine the gold-standard that the Registered Apprenticeship Programs have attained. IRAPs in construction would jeopardize both the quality of construction and the safety and security of the construction workforce, weakening every community across the country where these workers reside and are needed.
- HOW TO HELP: Submit a comment to the DOL.
 - FRIENDS AND FAMILY -- <https://saveconstructionapprenticeships.org>
 - WOMEN IN THE TRADES -- <https://protecttradeswomen.org>
 - VETERANS IN THE TRADES -- <https://saveveteransapprenticeships.org>
 - CEA -- <https://protectconstructiontraining.org>
 - Local Union – www.notoirap.org

Make our voices heard before the Department of Labor issues the final regulations. Public Comment period closes August 26th, 2019. Be sure to upload your comments before noon so you can be sure your voice is heard.