

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 52

To rebuild the Nation’s crumbling infrastructure, transportation systems, technology and computer networks, and energy distribution systems, by strongly and urgently requesting the immediate recruitment, employment, and on-the-job “earn as you learn” training of African-American young men ages 18 to 39, who are the hardest hit in terms of unemployment, with an unemployment rate of 41 percent nationally, and in some States and cities, especially inner cities, higher than 50 percent, which is a national crisis.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. CLEAVER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To rebuild the Nation’s crumbling infrastructure, transportation systems, technology and computer networks, and energy distribution systems, by strongly and urgently requesting the immediate recruitment, employment, and on-the-job “earn as you learn” training of African-American young men ages 18 to 39, who are the hardest hit in terms of unemployment, with an unemployment rate of 41 percent nationally, and in some States and cities, especially inner cities, higher than 50 percent, which is a national crisis.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Jobs, On-the-Job
5 ‘Earn While You Learn’ Training, and Apprenticeships
6 for African-American Young Men Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

9 (1) African-American young men ages 18 to 39
10 are the hardest hit in unemployment, with an unem-
11 ployment rate of 41 percent nationally, and in some
12 States and cities, especially inner cities, higher than
13 50 percent;

14 (2) this extraordinarily high unemployment rate
15 has a terrible rippling impact on the breakdown of
16 the family structure, as men in this age group are
17 in the primary child-producing ages; and

18 (3) an unemployment rate of 40 to 50 percent
19 among African-American young men, many of who
20 are fathers who, without jobs, and are unable to pro-
21 vide for their families, is not only a national crisis
22 but a national tragedy.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to secure
24 jobs, on-the-job training, and apprenticeships for African-
25 American young men ages 18 to 39 with the labor unions,

1 general contractors, and businesses who will rebuild the
2 Nation’s crumbling infrastructure in cities and commu-
3 nities throughout the Nation.

4 **SEC. 3. URGING EMPLOYMENT, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, AND**
5 **APPRENTICESHIPS FOR UNEMPLOYED AFRI-**
6 **CAN-AMERICAN YOUNG MEN IN REBUILDING**
7 **THE NATION’S CRUMBLING INFRASTRUC-**
8 **TURE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall
10 strongly and urgently request those labor unions, general
11 contractors, and businesses, who will rebuild the Nation’s
12 crumbling infrastructure, transportation systems, tech-
13 nology and computer networks, and energy distribution
14 systems, to actively recruit, hire, and provide on-the-job
15 training to African-American young men ages 18 to 39
16 through their existing jobs, apprenticeships, and “earn
17 while you learn” programs. The Secretary shall provide
18 assistance to such labor unions, general contractors, and
19 businesses through every means available to help coordi-
20 nate the recruitment of such individuals for such jobs, on-
21 the-job training, and apprenticeships.

22 (b) COORDINATION.—The jobs, on-the-job training,
23 and apprenticeships made available by labor unions, gen-
24 eral contractors, and businesses described in subsection
25 (a) shall be conducted in conjunction with the Secretary

1 of Labor and the labor unions and other associations
2 which have been identified as those primarily involved in
3 the infrastructure rebuilding described in such subsection,
4 including the International Brotherhood of Electrical
5 Workers (IBEW), the United Association of Journeymen
6 and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Indus-
7 try of the United States and Canada, the International
8 Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Rein-
9 forcing Iron Workers Union, the International Brother-
10 hood of Teamsters, the National Electrical Contractors
11 Association, the International Association of Sheet Metal,
12 Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART), the La-
13 borers' International Union of North America (LIUNA),
14 the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE),
15 and the United Steelworkers (USW). Such coordination
16 shall also be done in conjunction with the National Joint
17 Apprenticeship and Training Committee, which allows ap-
18 prentices to earn while they learn.

19 (c) RECRUITMENT.—The labor unions, general con-
20 tractors, and businesses described in subsections (a) and
21 (b) shall recruit African-American young men for the jobs,
22 on-the-job training, and apprenticeships described in sub-
23 section (a) by reaching out and seeking assistance from
24 within the African-American community, churches, the
25 National Urban League, the NAACP, 100 Black Men of

1 America, high school and college job placement offices,
2 media outlets, and other African-American organizations
3 that can offer valuable assistance to the Secretary of
4 Labor, the labor unions, general contractors, and busi-
5 nesses with identifying, locating, and contacting unem-
6 ployed African-American young men who want jobs, on-
7 the-job training, and apprenticeships. These African-
8 American organizations have a long and rich history of
9 working to improve the lives of African-Americans, and
10 can be very helpful in successfully reaching, contacting,
11 and recruiting unemployed African-American young men.

12 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that this Act—

14 (1) while rebuilding the crumbling infrastruc-
15 ture of this great Nation, will simultaneously help
16 create good paying jobs and job training that will
17 provide African-American young men ages 18 to 39
18 with the technical skills, computer capabilities, and
19 other skills necessary in this high technology-driven
20 job market, thus providing African-American young
21 men with highly developed skills that will make them
22 very competitive and attractive to many employers;
23 and

1 (2) greatly exemplifies and strengthens the high
2 nobility of purpose that is the founding grace of this
3 great Nation.

○