



Associated Builders and Contractors



Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee
Leading the Construction Industry Forward



September 17, 2019

To: Wisconsin Legislators
Subject: Support for Krug / Feyen / Ringhand LRB 3818/1 – Second Start Legislation

The above organizations represent employee-owned, union, and non-union employers throughout Wisconsin. All of them have concerns about the skilled labor shortage. Over the last several years, the state Legislature has done great work addressing the problem by providing Wisconsinites with the opportunities to pursue family-sustaining, skilled jobs. LRB 3818/1 is a continuation of previous efforts to bridge the skilled workers gap, and we hope you add your name as a coauthor before the deadline of September 20, 2019.

The Second Start Bill, which passed the Assembly last session (AB 124) on a vote of 87-8 with broad, bipartisan support, is a creative way to recruit an underutilized market – the 10,000 individuals every year who were enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System but did not graduate. These former college students would be supplied with information about career, educational, and training opportunities.

The materials and postage costs would be paid for by private organizations providing apprenticeship or nursing training, technical colleges, and private organizations training in collaboration with a technical college. The list of former students would be compiled by the University of Wisconsin System and only provided to the Department of Workforce Development. Previous fiscal estimates assess the cost of this initiative to taxpayers at under \$40,000, and the program sunsets after five years unless renewed by subsequent legislation.