

From: Public Records <publicrecords@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 5:52 PM EST
To: records@americanoversight.org <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: 068-21 Wishingrad - Release of Information
Attachment(s): "TX-GOV-21-0262.pdf", "068-21 Wishingrad - Documents for Release.pdf"

EXTERNAL SENDER

March 8, 2021

Ms. Sarah Wishingrad
American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE: OOG PIR # 068-21

Dear Ms. Wishingrad:

This email is in response to your public information request to the Office of the Governor ("OOG"), received by the OOG on February 19, 2021. A copy of your request is attached to this email.

The OOG has reviewed its files and has located the attached documents that are responsive to your request.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-475-2256 or publicrecords@gov.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Kieran Hillis
Public Information Coordinator
Assistant General Counsel
Office of Governor Greg Abbott

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Public Records <publicrecords@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: 068-21 Wishingrad - Request for Information

[WARNING] - The sender of this email could not be validated, and may not match the display name.

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Dear Public Information Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Texas's Public Information Act.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wishingrad
Pronouns: she/her
Paralegal
American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PIR: TX-GOV-21-0262

From: "Luis Saenz" <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>
To: Daniel Bryan <bryan.daniel@twc.state.tx.us>
"Sarah Hicks" <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>
"Jeff Oldham" <jeff.oldham@gov.texas.gov>
"Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>

Date: 2/17/2021 2:11:19 PM

Subject: Fwd: US Department of Labor undertakes several actions to strengthen Registered Apprenticeship Program, eliminate duplication

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From: Cesar, Richard - OCIA <Cesar.Richard@dol.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:07 PM

Subject: FW: US Department of Labor undertakes several actions to strengthen Registered Apprenticeship Program, eliminate duplication

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Sharing today's announcement.

All the best,

Richard Cesar
Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Labor

From: DOL Public Affairs <m-DOLPublicAffairs@dol.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:12 PM

Subject: US Department of Labor undertakes several actions to strengthen Registered Apprenticeship Program, eliminate duplication



News Release

U.S. Department of Labor | February 17, 2021

US Department of Labor undertakes several actions to strengthen Registered Apprenticeship Program, eliminate duplication *Department will relaunch Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship*

WASHINGTON, DC – The [U.S. Department of Labor](#) today announced several actions designed to accelerate apprenticeship expansion as it considers halting the duplicative apprenticeship system that may reduce quality, strip protections for apprentices and cause confusion for industry. The steps follow a [Biden administration announcement](#) today.

The department will suspend its acceptance and review of new or pending applications for [Standards Recognition Entities](#) in the [Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program](#). In addition, the department announced its intention to relaunch the federal Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship. These actions will follow an Executive Order that President Biden will sign on Feb. 17, 2021, that revokes Executive Order 13801 and directs federal agencies to consider taking steps promptly to rescind any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines or policies implementing that order.

“Now, more than ever, the American workforce needs to be adapted as long-standing industries transform and create demand for skills in cutting-edge fields like cybersecurity, green energy, software development and data science,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration Suzi LeVine. “Apprenticeship is an ‘earn-as-you-learn’ method for equipping workers with the skills employers seek. With continued growth and innovation, Registered Apprenticeships provide pathways to strengthen our workforce and our economy at this critical time in our nation’s history.”

The Biden administration is concerned that the IRAP program creates a redundant apprenticeship program, with duplicate and often inferior systems that compete with the highly successful and longstanding Registered Apprenticeship Program. Any proposed changes to the regulation will include a public notice and comment rulemaking. In the past decade alone, the Registered Apprenticeship Program has jump-started the careers of more than 1.9 million U.S. workers in over a thousand occupations ranging from traditional careers like Electrician, Carpenter and Plumber, and newer occupations such as Software Developer, Wind Turbine Technician, Cybersecurity Analyst, Hotel Manager, Pharmacy Tech and 5G Wireless Technicians.

The suspension of receipt or review of Standards Recognition Entities’ applications announced today has no impact on the 27 SREs currently approved, and all IRAPs recognized by an SRE will continue to perform their IRAP functions. Previously approved SREs may also continue to recognize additional IRAPs.

The department’s decision to relaunch the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship follows its recognition of the clear need to engage with leaders and practitioners from industry, labor, education, workforce and community organizations to expand and diversify the proven Registered Apprenticeship model, and to streamline and modernize it. The committee’s charge will include developing recommendations on how the Registered Apprenticeship Program can better meet the current and future needs of the U.S. workforce. The department will also engage with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure equity and access for underrepresented populations and communities as well as expanded industries with in-demand jobs.

The department’s [Employment and Training Administration](#) administers federal job training and dislocated worker programs, federal grants to states for public employment service programs and unemployment

insurance benefits.

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Media Contact:

Grant Vaught, 202-693-4672, Vaught.Grant.E@dol.gov

Release Number: 21-297-NAT

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).