

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

February 2, 2023

The Honorable Marty Walsh
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Walsh,

As Georgia grows into a national leader in the film industry, our workforce needs to be prepared to take advantage of new opportunities and fill vital jobs. Motion picture and television productions spent \$4.4 billion in the state in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, supporting over 137,514 jobs. I write to ask for your support for this rapidly growing industry by improving outreach to potential apprenticeship sponsors and changing DOL apprenticeship eligibility guidance related to the film and media industry.

Registered apprenticeships can provide job training and a pathway to careers for those interested in jobs in the film and media industry. However, the film and media industry has struggled to access apprenticeship resources.

I hope to work with you and the Department's Employment Training Administration (ETA) to strengthen these programs to help more people access careers in the creative economy, including production and below the line roles in film, television, theater, video gaming, and similar industries.

When ETA considers its next round of recipients for Apprenticeship Industry Intermediaries funding, I ask that you strongly consider a leader in film and media workforce development. Several innovative organizations have identified successful apprenticeship programs in this industry but need intentional outreach and support from ETA to expand. The Industry Intermediary program can fill this gap, providing dedicated funding to connect film studios, nonprofits, technical colleges, labor unions, and other stakeholders with potential workers.

Recognizing the industry's unique characteristics, I encourage the ETA to designate film and media workforce development as a priority in its public-facing messaging, stakeholder outreach, and technical assistance. As one production ends and others begin, apprentices may move between studios and sets. Workers in the film and media industry may also have more varied work schedules than those in other more traditional industries.

The flexibility and dynamism of the film and media industry is one its greatest assets. Given the industry's employment model, ETA should proactively help states identify potential apprenticeship providers who can maintain consistent, high-quality apprenticeship opportunities.

I ask for your partnership in cutting red tape and modifying inflexible program guidance that hinder the development of high-quality apprenticeships in the industry. If ETA determines other workforce development programs or grants would be a better fit for the industry than the apprenticeship model, I would be eager to work with the Department to expand the availability of these options.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Ossoff", written in a cursive style.

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator