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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 110 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY KLUNK, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, B. MILLER, A. DAVIS,  
PICKETT, RAPP, ORTITAY, MOUL, BERNSTINE, SAPPEY, SOLOMON,  
FREEMAN, FEE, RYAN, STAATS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, SIMMONS,  
SCHLOSSBERG, ECKER, KEEFER, ZIMMERMAN, MILLARD, DRISCOLL,  
WARREN, MACKENZIE, BROWN, ROEBUCK, McNEILL, McCLINTON,  
HEFFLEY, NEILSON, DeLUCA, MULLINS, HERSHEY, MURT AND STRUZZI,  
MARCH 5, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MARCH 5, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass, and the  
2 President of the United States to sign, legislation that will  
3 make apprenticeships more affordable for individuals seeking  
4 a skills-based education.

5 WHEREAS, The current PA 529 College Savings Program applies  
6 to qualified college expenses like tuition, books, room and  
7 board and learning technologies; and

8 WHEREAS, PA 529 College Savings Plans make college more  
9 affordable for middle-class families by allowing families to  
10 finance their education tax free; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2017 and 2018, more than 21,000 new PA 529  
12 accounts were opened, resulting in more than \$568 million in  
13 contributions by residents of this Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2017 and 2018, more than 27,000 residents of this  
15 Commonwealth benefited from \$104.4 million in earnings from the  
16 PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan (GSP) and the PA 529 Investment

1 Plan (IP) for college savings plans; and

2 WHEREAS, While PA 529 College Savings Plans help individuals  
3 seeking a college education, they do not always help those who  
4 have sought careers in the trades; and

5 WHEREAS, States are limited in how far they can depart from  
6 Federal regulations governing college savings plans; and

7 WHEREAS, If a state allows students to use PA 529 College  
8 Savings Plan distributions at a nonqualifying institution, as  
9 determined by the Internal Revenue Service, the earnings portion  
10 of the distribution is taxed and subject to a 10% penalty; and

11 WHEREAS, A qualifying institution includes traditional four-  
12 year universities as well as community colleges, vocational  
13 schools and trade schools but does not include an apprenticeship  
14 established by a group of businesses with no ties to a qualified  
15 institution; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite the value of an education through  
17 apprenticeship programs, Federal law does not provide enrollees  
18 in apprenticeship programs with the same opportunity to use tax  
19 incentives for tools, textbooks and equipment as provided to  
20 college students; and

21 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth need the ability to  
22 save for the education and training necessary for 21st century  
23 jobs, whether they are enrolled in college, attending a short-  
24 term training program or getting a license or credential for a  
25 specific trade or industry; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
28 States to pass, and the President of the United States to sign,  
29 legislation that will make apprenticeships more affordable for  
30 individuals seeking a skills-based education; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
2 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of  
3 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from  
4 Pennsylvania.