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**SUPPORTING INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING REGISTERED
APPRENTICESHIPS**

WHEREAS: The average United States college graduate in 2016 had \$37,172 in student loan obligations; and

WHEREAS: Many college graduates require up to six years to complete their undergraduate education; and

WHEREAS: Jointly administered apprentice programs represent the “other four-year degree” which places thousands of Americans on the pathway to joining the middle class; and

WHEREAS: Jointly administered labor-management apprentice programs provide an opportunity for individuals to learn a skilled vocation, acquire an Associates degree through a local community college, and earn a fair living for their families while receiving relevant on-the-job training; and

WHEREAS: The AFL-CIO Working for America Institute, along with the United States Department of Labor, are vigorously expanding the apprenticeship opportunities available for workers in American Industry; and

WHEREAS: The establishment of registered jointly administered apprenticeship programs in manufacturing occupations will provide local workers with high quality classroom instruction and essential on-the-job training in occupations needed in the industrial sector; and

WHEREAS: The jointly administered apprenticeship programs will replenish a retiring skilled workforce and create a new generation of highly trained workers for Ohio’s manufacturing industries; and

WHEREAS: The training of this skilled and productive workforce, through the jointly administered apprentice programs, will enable American manufacturing businesses to be more competitive and successful; and

WHEREAS: The high quality manufacturing apprentice programs will afford our families and neighbors with the opportunity to earn a living wage and

enjoy a successful careers in the manufacturing sector; and

WHEREAS: Jointly administered apprentice programs are directly responsive to the local and regional labor needs of area manufacturing businesses; and

WHEREAS: Graduates of jointly administered apprentice programs continuously improve their skills through upgraded courses provided by the apprenticeship program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO strongly endorses the expansion of registered apprenticeship programs to occupations in the manufacturing sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO and its affiliates are committed to working with the United States Department of Labor, the State of Ohio, participating employers, and the local community to establish high-quality apprenticeship programs that create family-sustaining jobs throughout the State.

Submitted by: IUE-CWA