The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Proclamation

Whereas, National Apprenticeship Week is designated annually to increase public awareness and appreciation for diverse and in demand career pathways and to showcase sponsors, programs and facilities; and

Whereas, Commonwealth employers have found it increasingly difficult to meet talent needs for a variety of skilled positions, and registered apprenticeships are a critical tool to close this skills gap; and

Whereas, Studies show that Registered Apprenticeship yields a strong return on investment, for businesses, jobseekers, and government; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth is committed to the expansion of registered apprenticeship into new industries and occupations, targeting technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing; and

Whereas, Diversifying the demographics of those industries that are already actively participating and enrolling registered apprentices with the Division of Apprentice Standards is critical in meeting the needs of the construction industry, as they need 1.5 million new skilled professionals by 2019; and

Whereas, The number of women participating in Registered Apprenticeship programs in the construction industry in the Commonwealth has more than doubled in the last five years, and the number of minority apprentices continues to rapidly increase; and

Whereas, There are currently over 9,800 registered apprentice in the Commonwealth and over 650 sponsors; and

Whereas, The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and the Administration’s Workforce Skills Cabinet has developed an Apprenticeship Expansion Plan aiming to increase the number of new Registered Apprenticeships in technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing and diversify the apprenticeship workforce; and

Whereas, This week will see the launch of the Commonwealth’s first Registered Apprenticeship program in technology, and we celebrate the launch this past year of our first apprenticeship programs in advanced manufacturing and healthcare,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the week of November 12th, 2018, to be

MASSACHUSETTS APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.