WHEREAS, to maintain and enhance North Carolina's economic competitiveness, our state needs a well-educated workforce, and employers need access to a pipeline of skilled talent; and

WHEREAS, many employers have difficulty finding qualified applicants to fill open positions; and

WHEREAS, some employers attribute their difficulty in finding qualified workers to a lack of relevant education, technical skills, and soft skills among applicants; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeships are a proven means of training workers for the jobs that employers need, and serve as a valuable resource for strengthening North Carolina's workforce; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of job seekers, particularly students, are turning to apprenticeships to help them start their chosen careers; and

WHEREAS, employers around the state have created apprenticeship programs to help develop a talented workforce for their industry; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is committed to connecting job seekers to employers through ApprenticeshipNC;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 12 - 18, 2018, as "APPRENTICESHIP WEEK" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.