

March 29, 2022

Representative Rob Ecklund
409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Ecklund:

I am writing you today to urge you to support HF3953 and SF 4285 that would fund the Building Strong Communities (BSC) program, the multi-craft apprenticeship readiness program that introduces participants to the building and construction trades. Building Strong Communities has changed my life by showing me a pathway to a career that provides excellent benefits and a secure future.

BSC is a program dedicated to preparing participants for a successful career in the construction trades. I was delivering pizzas as a way to make ends meet when I found out about BSC. I had planned on attending college, having to take out loans and incurring debt, but instead I am an apprentice who is earning while learning skills. The BSC program not only showed me how to get into the trades, but how to be successful in the trades.

I've gained a lot of self-confidence graduating from BSC and being in my apprenticeship program. As a laborer, I'm learning many different skills that will make me a success. Once I'm done with my apprenticeship and become a journeyman, I'll be very versatile. In the first few months of my apprenticeship, I was able to earn enough money to move into my own apartment and begin saving money. If it weren't for BSC I don't think I would be where I am today, I certainly wouldn't have a career in the trades.

I encourage the legislature to fund the Building Strong Communities program because of the incredible effect it can have on people's lives, as it has on mine. The Building Strong Communities program has given me a career and plan for life.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Fridley