



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative John Fillmore (R-16)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apprenticeship Program Legislation Would Open Arizona Students to Skilled Career and Economic Opportunities

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – A bill sponsored by State Representative John Fillmore would create an apprenticeship program for qualifying Arizona high school students that provides valuable on-the-job training and skill development with an employer in an industry they're interested in pursuing as a career. [HB 2290](#) passed by the House with bipartisan support in February and currently awaits consideration in the Senate.

“Apprenticeships provide a mutually beneficial opportunity for students and employers,” said Representative Fillmore. **“Students who complete an apprenticeship through this program would have immediate employment and economic opportunity. Whereas students today who attend a traditional four-year college or university can increasingly find themselves after graduation saddled with crushing debt and a degree that offers dubious real-world employment prospects.”**

“Employers find long-term benefits from participation in an apprenticeship program because they have a pipeline for a well-trained and dedicated workforce – which is increasingly more important as many industries struggle to find high-quality employees to meet their workforce needs.”

Apprenticeship program students would have to maintain their academic coursework to cultivate their fundamental education and ensure their successful completion of high school graduation requirements by the end of the 12th grade. Students would work for a participating employer in their industry of interest to receive critical on-the-job training and skill development. Employers would be required to provide students flexible scheduling and fair wages in return. During their employment, ten percent of a student's earnings would be held in an interest-bearing savings account, which employers would match and receive a tax deduction to offset. All funds in the account would be disbursed to the student upon completion of the program. The Arizona Department of Education would manage the program and maintain a list of approved employers.

John Fillmore is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 16, which includes East Mesa, Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, and North San Tan Valley. Follow him on Twitter at @JMFillmore.

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