



National Association of Home Builders

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Government Affairs

James W. Tobin III
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November 20, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of approximately 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I am writing to express our support for S. 3649, *the FIRST STEP Act*. This bill requires the Bureau of Prisons to conduct assessments of all federal inmates to determine their risk of reoffending and to use the results to assign inmates to appropriate recidivism reduction programs, including work and education programs, drug rehabilitation, job training, and faith-based programs.

NAHB applauds the language S. 3649 that recognizes vocational training as one way to reduce recidivism among incarcerated individuals in the federal prison system. NAHB and its educational arm, the Home Builders Institute (HBI), know firsthand the positive results and benefits that are being achieved every day in state and county correctional facilities across the country. If enacted, we are confident this legislation can achieve the same results at the federal level.

For example, in Sheridan, Illinois, HBI is currently training 150 individuals a day at a medium security facility. Here they are learning basic skills in carpentry, masonry, electrical, plumbing, and building construction technology over a 24-week rolling admission program which will award them several important certificates to assist them in finding work upon their release. Other state and local builders associations within the NAHB federation have similarly pursued their own successful partnerships with area prisons to train incarcerated individuals for a career in construction upon reentry into their communities.

The demand for skilled construction workers has never been greater. *The FIRST STEP Act* will help address construction's labor shortage while providing individuals the opportunity for a second chance for a bright future and a meaningful career.

For these reasons, we strongly support S. 3649 and encourage swift action by the Senate to advance the bill. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Tobin III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James W. Tobin III

CC: Committee on the Judiciary