

NEWS RELEASE

Associated Builders and Contractors

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ABC SAYS IT SUPPORTS BILL TO EXEMPT SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FROM DAVIS-BACON

(Washington, D.C.)—July 2, 1999—Associated Builders and Contractors strongly supports legislation that would exempt the construction and repair of public schools and libraries from the inflationary and costly effects of the federal Davis-Bacon Act.

The School Library Construction Affordability Act (H.R. 2396) was introduced by Rep. Duke Cunningham (R-Calif.) June 30.

ABC President David Bush said, “The Davis-Bacon Act increases the cost of federal construction by as much as 38 percent, a cost that is passed on to taxpayers. School districts paying for construction and repairs are forced to pay more to provide students with less. As a result, students are being shortchanged. By waiving Davis-Bacon on school and library construction, Congress will help lift outdated burdens and federal restrictions and will give local school districts the ability to spend resources where they are most crucial—meeting students’ educational needs.”

States that have eliminated prevailing wage requirements on school construction have seen significant savings in the cost to taxpayers. In Ohio, for example, taxpayers saved more than 10 percent in the first year school construction was exempted from the state prevailing wage law.

In comments on the House floor, Cunningham said he was introducing the legislation to help more schools be built and partially in response to a move by the AFL-CIO to use President Clinton’s school construction bond initiative “as a vehicle to expand federal Davis-Bacon laws over a much larger number of local public schools than must abide by it today.”

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ABC is a national association representing approximately 21,000 merit (open) shop construction and construction-related firms in 83 chapters across the United States.