



May 10, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1129 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal:

We write regarding H.R. 1818, the *Aviation Workforce Development Act*, legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code to make expenses for education at FAA-certified private commercial pilot and aviation maintenance technician schools a qualified expense for 529 Plan distributions.

Representatives Mike Collins (R-GA), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), and Steve Cohen (D-TN) introduced this legislation to reduce barriers to entry for aspiring aviators and aircraft mechanics, citing the high cost of training for these vital careers. We agree that a robust commercial aviation industry requires a steady supply of pilots and mechanics and allowing Americans to utilize 529 Plans – which are comprised of their own money – will help the industry meet the rapidly increasing demand for air services. The bipartisan group of co-sponsors combined with the coalition of industry and labor support suggests consensus about the commonsense nature of this policy.

Similar legislation was recently enacted as part of the *SECURE Act* to meet the growing need for skilled workers in the trades through apprenticeship programs. H.R. 1818 will build on that legacy and address the similarly growing need for aviators and aircraft mechanics by giving Americans the same tools to choose a career in aviation as those seeking four-year degrees.

Accordingly, we ask the Committee on Ways and Means to mark up this legislation so that it may receive a vote on the House floor and be inserted into the tax title of the upcoming FAA reauthorization bill. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working with you to build and maintain a workforce that will ensure America continues to lead the world in aviation. With this legislation, Congress can deliver a win for American families, the aviation industry and workers, and consumers of air services.

Sincerely,

Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA)
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA)
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA)
Airlines for America (A4A)
Allied Pilots Association (APA)
Aviation Technician Education Council (ATEC)
Cargo Airline Association (CAA)
Coalition of Airline Pilots Association (CAPA)
Flight School Association of North America (FSANA)
General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA)
Gulfstream Aerospace
International Air Transport Association (IATA)
National Air Carriers Association (NACA)
National Business Aviation Association (NBAA)
National Flight Training Association (NFTA)
NetJets
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots (NJASAP)
Regional Airline Association (RAA)
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association (SWAPA)