

December 12, 2019

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cheri Bustos
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: The Promoting Aviation Regulations for Technical Training (PARTT) 147 Act of 2019

Dear Senators Inhofe and Duckworth and Representatives Young and Bustos:

The undersigned organizations appreciate your leadership and support for aviation technical education through introduction of the PARTT 147 Act. We fully back the Act's mandate for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) promulgation of community-drafted regulation that will empower innovative curriculum development and allow our industry to educate the future workforce by the best means necessary.

As representatives of multiple aviation industry constituencies, we are vested in the industry's continued growth, and rely heavily on qualified technical personnel. Given that schools governed by Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 147 produce the majority of new FAA-certificated mechanics, the law would directly impact the organizations we represent, and their ability to attract and maintain a highly-skilled workforce.

FAA regulations dictate the curriculum aviation maintenance technician schools offer to aspiring aviation maintenance mechanics. Unfortunately, those static curriculum requirements have not been significantly updated in more than five decades. The pace of technological advances constantly drives innovation for safer and more efficient aircraft, while schools are mandated to teach often irrelevant subject areas. This inefficiency wastes time, resources, and student tuition, and erodes the attractiveness of the profession.

Seeing no regulatory relief in sight, the undersigned organizations acknowledge that this legislative "fix" is intended to further escalate the issue after decades of pushing for a new rule to modernize aviation maintenance technician training, ensure a performance-based approach to regulatory oversight, and provide flexibility for part 147 schools to develop pipeline programs with high schools and employers.

We appreciate your leadership and stand by to support your efforts as needed.

Sincerely,

Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aerospace Industries Association
Aerospace Maintenance Council
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airlines for America
Association for Women in Aviation Maintenance
Aviation Suppliers Association
Aviation Technician Education Council
Experimental Aircraft Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
International Air Transport Association
Modification and Replacement Parts Association
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
Professional Aviation Maintenance Association
Regional Airline Association