



AIRCRAFT MECHANICS FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION

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March 17, 2023

The Honorable Mike Collins
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Collins:

The Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), a craft-specific, independent aviation union representing aircraft maintenance technicians from Alaska Airlines, Horizon Air, Southwest Airlines, Spirit Airlines, and Sun Country Airlines, is proud to endorse your legislation, the Aviation Workforce Development Act. The shrinking pool of certified aircraft maintenance technicians is a safety issue for travelers across the country, and we are thankful to see you working to address this matter.

The Aviation Workforce Development Act would make education to become an aircraft technician more accessible by allowing FAA-certified schools to qualify for a 529 Qualified Tuition Plan. The 529s are tax-advantaged investment accounts enabling parents to save for their children's college or trade school education. However, aviation maintenance schools do not currently qualify for the 529 funds. The Aviation Workforce Development Act would address that void and gap.

The aviation maintenance workforce is in sore need of new technicians. But for many, the cost of higher education is a significant challenge. By empowering students to use their 529 savings to pay for tuition and expenses at an aircraft maintenance school, the Aviation Workforce Development Act will help address the severe deficit of qualified aircraft maintenance technicians.

AMFA commends you for your work on the Aviation Workforce Development Act and looks forward to working with you on the critical issue of aviation workforce development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Cush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Cush" clearly visible.

Robert Cush
Director of Government Affairs