



ROOFING DAY IN D.C.

2019

Support Expanded Workforce Training Incentives

Chronic workforce shortages are the top challenge facing roofing industry employers as demographic trends and economic conditions make it more difficult to find skilled employees to fill well-paying, family-sustaining jobs. Expanded work-based training is critical to addressing the future needs of the roofing industry in highly competitive labor markets.

The roofing industry commends Congress for approving the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act in 2018. This legislation to reform and expand career and technical education was a major focus of Roofing Day in D.C. 2018, and this new law will enhance workforce development in the roofing industry as it is implemented in the coming years.

It is now time to take the next steps to address workforce needs through expanded skills training. In 2019, Congress will consider reform of the Higher Education Act, the existing law that provides federal investments in post-secondary education. Higher education reform should include expanded workforce training funding and incentives that enable roofing industry employers to develop skilled individuals needed to sustain and grow their businesses. At a minimum, higher education reform legislation should include:

- The **Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act** (S. 839), a bipartisan bill by Sens. Portman (R-Ohio) and Kaine (D-Va.) to extend eligibility for Pell Grants to short-term/competency-based workforce programs. This will provide more students with access to training now being developed that will enable workers to become certified under the new NRCA ProCertification™ program and other roofing-related designations designed to enhance career pathways in the roofing industry.
- The **College Transparency Act** (S. 800/H.R. 1766), a bipartisan bill by Reps. Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.) and Mitchell (R-Mich.) to improve access to post-secondary educational and workforce data. This will enable students and parents to better compare the costs and economic returns of pursuing careers in roofing and other trades with the cost of pursuing college degrees.

The roofing industry urges lawmakers to co-sponsor these bills and ensure they are included in broader higher education reform legislation. Investments in education and training have never been more important, and higher education reform should help workers obtain the skills and credentials needed to succeed in rewarding careers in roofing and other industries that provide family-sustaining jobs.

Additionally, lawmakers are urged to join the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, which consists of members interested in developing new initiatives to address the workforce needs of employers and employees. The Congressional CTE Caucus is chaired by Reps. Jim Langevin (D-R.I.) and Glenn Thompson (R-Pa.) and Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.).

Request: Co-sponsor the Jumpstart our Businesses by Supporting Students Act and the College Transparency Act and include these bills in broader higher education reform legislation.

Questions? Contact NRCA's Washington, D.C., office at (202) 546-7584 or (800) 338-5765.

