



Workforce Development

Chronic workforce shortages are the top challenge facing roofing industry employers today. Many contractors indicate they could increase their levels of roofing work 10 to 20 percent or more if they could fill vacant positions. This translates to an estimated \$3.6 billion to \$7.2 billion in lost economic activity annually. Workforce shortages will become even more acute because of an aging workforce and other demographic trends, as well as ongoing rebuilding efforts resulting from recent hurricanes and other natural disasters. The severe lack of qualified workers is roofing industry employers' biggest limitation for growing their businesses in today's economy.

NRCA strongly supports the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 2353). This legislation, sponsored by Reps. Thompson (R-Pa.) and Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.), will reform career and technical education (CTE) programs operated under the federal Perkins Act, which has not been reauthorized by Congress since 2006. This bipartisan legislation is vital for roofing industry employers across the U.S. to address future workforce needs.

H.R. 2353 includes reforms and improvements designed to make CTE programs more responsive to employers' workforce development needs. To accomplish this objective, the legislation includes the following reforms; it:

- Expands opportunities for work-based learning programs
- Strengthens incentives for the development of industry-recognized credentials
- Provides new opportunities for collaboration between employers and educational institutions to meet local workforce needs

Additionally, the bill increases authorized funding levels for CTE programs during the next five fiscal years.

The roofing industry commends members of the House of Representatives for approving H.R. 2353 with overwhelming bipartisan support in the summer of 2017. We urge the Senate to move forward and approve this legislation in 2018 to better enable roofing industry employers to address their workforce development needs. Because workforce shortages are the most difficult challenge facing roofing industry employers in today's economy, reforming CTE programs under the Perkins Act is critical, and Congress must act now.

Request: The Senate should take up and approve H.R. 2353 during 2018.

**Questions? Contact NRCA's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 546-7584
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