

Roofing Industry Supports Solutions to Workforce Shortages

The roofing industry is an essential \$100 billion sector with nearly 1 million employees that is vital to constructing affordable housing and repairing and maintaining schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure nationwide. Demographic trends and challenges in career and technical education have resulted in too few skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen who install, manufacture and distribute life-saving shelter to all Americans. The roofing industry encourages Congress to support the following solutions to the nation's workforce shortages.

Support an increase of \$70 million for Perkins Career and Technical Education State Grants

- Increasing funding for improved and expanded CTE is critical to ensuring more students obtain the training needed to close the skills gap in the workforce.
- This annual investment, a mere fraction of the amount provided to four-year colleges and universities, helps our industry connect students with fulfilling, family-sustaining jobs in our communities.
- In most years, CTE grants are funded at less than 1% of what is sent to colleges and universities.

Support A Stronger Workforce for America Act

- Bipartisan legislation to reform training programs and career services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will ensure more job creators and workers can benefit.
- This legislation contains reforms to streamline bureaucracy and provide more flexibility within the WIOA system, key to improving accessibility for roofing industry employers.
- The bill will increase awareness of programs within communities; provide new, innovative opportunities for collaboration between industry and educational institutions; expand skills training programs; and provide for more effective workforce boards.

Co-sponsor the Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act

- Bipartisan legislation establishes a new visa that matches willing employers with temporary workers to meet urgent workforce needs for our 21st century economy.
- The new system will allocate more visas in times of economic strength and fewer during downturns, enabling employers to address workforce needs while protecting workers.
- It would also combat illegal immigration by requiring participating employers to utilize the E-Verify system.

Support a Permanent Solution for Individuals Under TPS and DACA Programs

- The roofing industry supports legislation to allow qualified individuals working under Temporary Protected Status or the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to adjust to lawful permanent status so they can continue contributing to their communities.