



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 addressing affordable housing and repairing and maintaining schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure nationwide. This crucial industry faces workforce shortages that grow increasingly acute every year. Demographic trends, systemic challenges in career and technical education and training, and ongoing supply chain disruptions have resulted in too few skilled trades men and women who install, manufacture and distribute life-saving shelter to all Americans. The roofing industry encourages Congress to support the following solutions to address the nation's workforce shortages.

Perkins Career and Technical Education State Grants

We support a robust increase in funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education State Grants. Increasing funding through appropriations for the upcoming fiscal year 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. The imbalance of federal funding between types of education is quite alarming. In most years, CTE grants are funded at less than 1% of what is sent to colleges and universities. Especially in a time of fiscal constraint, we need to invest our tax dollars wisely.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

The roofing industry supports reform of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to ensure more job creators and workers can benefit. As Congress considers reauthorization of WIOA, lawmakers should provide reforms to expand and improve WIOA programs. Critical reforms should alleviate burdensome paperwork for small businesses, increase awareness of the program within communities, recognize the value of competency-based training and certification programs, and provide better functioning workforce boards that meet in-demand workforce development needs at the state and local level.

Immigration Reform that Addresses Workforce Needs

We support the Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act (H.R. 3734) to establish a visa system that meets the demands of a 21st century economy. This bipartisan legislation would allot more visas in times of economic strength and fewer during downturns, enabling employers to address workforce needs while protecting employees. This innovative system would match willing employers with willing temporary workers based on economic conditions to address acute workforce shortages. It also will enhance workplace enforcement and security by requiring participating employers to use the E-Verify system for new hires. The roofing industry also supports legislation to allow qualified individuals currently 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 our communities.

Request: Address the roofing industry's workforce shortages by co-sponsoring H.R 3734, increasing Perkins CTE State Grants and reforming the WIOA program.

For questions, please contact NRCA's Washington, D.C., office at (202) 546-7584 or (800) 338-5765.