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Legislative Priorities

Provide long-term Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding.

Aviation maintenance technician schools rely on the FAA for certifications and oversight. Failing to provide the agency sufficient resources results in administrative delays, ultimately undermining the ability to educate students. ATEC urges Congress to move expeditiously on legislation that would provide long-term funding to prevent aviation maintenance education programs from being detrimentally impacted by inadequate agency resources.

Modernize outdated FAA maintenance technical school regulations.

The regulation dictating what educational institutions must teach aspiring aviation maintenance mechanics has not been significantly updated in more than 50 years. In an age where technological advances are constantly driving innovation for safer and more efficient aircraft, schools are required to teach techniques for constructing and maintaining the Wright Flyer. Industry is left with the cost of retraining graduates to complete basic tasks required to maintain a modern, sophisticated aircraft.

ATEC strongly supports [S.2792](#), A bill to modernize training programs at aviation maintenance technician schools, which would mandate FAA promulgation of part 147 within six months.

See related opinion piece from *TheHill.com*, [Aviation struggles with 50-year-old maintenance training regulation](#).

Support a skilled and dynamic aviation workforce.

Despite facing a shortage of qualified technical workers, the aviation maintenance industry is growing and hiring. Federal funding and support of local workforce programs would train a new generation of skilled workers for high-paying jobs. Congress should focus on career and technical education programs that create new opportunities for collaboration between employers, government agencies and educational institutions to build programs that align with business needs while reinforcing the importance of applied skills.

Specifically, ATEC strongly supports the Aviation Maintenance Workforce Bill ([S.2506/H.R.5701](#)) that would incentivize workforce collaborations among businesses, labor organizations, schools and governmental entities.

About ATEC: *ATEC is a partnership of aviation maintenance training schools and employers. The council is dedicated to promoting and supporting technician education through its communications, advocacy programs and networking events.*