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Legislative Priorities

Modernize outdated aviation maintenance technician school regulations

The regulation dictating what aviation maintenance 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. The aviation maintenance education community is asking for support of a bill that would direct the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to immediately promulgate a regulation, something Congress has already requested through the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Bill.

Support a skilled and dynamic aviation workforce through grant program funding

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.

To that end, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) created two new grant programs to recruit and train the next generation of aerospace workers and pilots. ATEC joins aviation allies urging congressional leaders to fully fund the \$10 million authorized for these programs as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations process.

Oppose threats to private, tax paying educational institutions

ATEC opposes the Protect Students Act of 2019 (S.867). Masked rhetorically as a student protection aid, the bill threatens a vital source of aviation maintenance technical personnel. The legislation would severely limit proprietary aviation maintenance technician schools (AMTS) from serving students and veterans, and negatively impact aerospace companies looking to hire FAA-certificated mechanics and other aviation technical personnel.

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. Get more information about these issues at www.atec-amt.org/legislative-tool-kit