

HR 1818 "Aviation Workforce Development Act"

Many regional airlines are suggesting there is a pilot shortage in the United States. That assertion is not supported by the data, which indicates there are currently more pilots than jobs available. In fact, there are currently about 1.5 certificated pilots relative to demand, according to Federal Aviation Administration and Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

But there are a shortage of financial pathways and incentives for young persons to pursue careers in aviation.

Industry is responding through outreach programs and financial assistance to provide a more certain career pathway for people willing to invest in an aviation career. Pilot associations are reaching out to communities to raise awareness of aviation career opportunities and with programs to actively mentor youth.

Elected representatives can also assist in these efforts by passing HR 1818, "Aviation Workforce Development Act."

This bill expands the qualified tuition program (commonly referred to as 529 plans) to allow distributions to pay education-related expenses required for participation in certain aviation maintenance and commercial pilot courses. The bill was introduced in the House on March 28th, 2023. As of June 6, 2023, HR 1818 has bipartisan support, with a total co-sponsorship of 101 members comprised of 68 Republicans and 36 Democrats.

For questions or additional information please email GAC-Chairman@alliedpilots.org