

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dave Price
Chairman
House Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Senate Transportation, House and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
House Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Transportation, House and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FY 2021 Funding for Aviation Technician & Pilot Workforce Grant Programs

Dear Chairmen Lowey, Shelby, Price and Collins, Vice Chairman Leahy and Ranking Members Granger, Reed, and Diaz-Balart:

As you begin the FY 2021 appropriations process, the 42 undersigned organizations, representing aviation maintainers, commercial operators, general and business aviation, manufacturers, labor organizations, educators, airports, and state and local government officials urge you to once again fully fund the new aviation workforce development grant programs created by Sec. 625 of the 2018 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) law.

We are extremely grateful that Congress appropriated resources for the grant programs at the authorized levels (\$5 million apiece) for FY 2020. At a House aviation subcommittee hearing last month, the FAA's point person on workforce issues indicated that the agency is working to initiate the Sec. 625 programs and will begin making grants this year.

While the process is apparently moving in the right direction, the aviation industry's well-documented talent shortage will not be resolved in just one year. We are facing a technician and pilot skills gap that threatens to undermine the growth and competitiveness of one of the most important sectors of our economy - one that generates more than seven percent of the U.S. gross domestic product, contributes \$1.5 trillion to the U.S. economy and supports more than 11.5 million jobs.

Letter to Chairmen Lowey, Shelby, Price and Collins, Vice Chairman Leahy and Ranking
Members Granger, Reed, and Diaz-Balart
Aviation Industry Urges Full Funding for Aviation Workforce Grant Programs in FY 2021
March 9, 2020
Page 2 of 2

With the foregoing in mind, Congress, the FAA and industry must stay focused and recognize that developing the next generation of pilots and maintenance technicians requires a long-term commitment. The resources you provide for the Sec. 625 programs will encourage collaboration between schools, aviation companies, unions and government to find new solutions to the skills gap and help more Americans to pursue aviation careers. That, in turn, will contribute to the long-term efficiency of the nation's aviation system, the industry's global competitiveness and the nation's overall economic health.

Thank you once again for making funds available for Sec. 625 for FY 2020 and for considering our request for these important resources in FY 2021. We look forward to working with you in the coming months to build on the recent progress and make the programs a long-term success.

Sincerely,

Aeronautical Repair Station Association	Greater Miami Aviation Association
Aerospace Industries Association	Helicopter Association International
Aerospace Maintenance Council	International Air Transport Association
Aircraft Electronics Association	International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association	International Council of Air Shows
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association	Modification and Replacement Parts Association
Airlines for America	National Agricultural Aviation Association
Air Medical Operators Association	National Air Carrier Association
Airports Council International – North America	National Air Transportation Association
Allied Pilots Association	National Association of State Aviation Officials
American Association of Airport Executives	National Business Aviation Association
Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International	National League of Cities
Association for Women in Aviation Maintenance	NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Aviation Council of Pennsylvania	Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission
Aviation Suppliers Association	Professional Aviation Maintenance Association
Aviation Technician Education Council	Recreational Aviation Foundation
Cargo Airline Association	Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations	Regional Airline Association
Experimental Aircraft Association	South Florida Aviation Maintenance Council
Flight School Association of North America	Veterans Airlift Command
General Aviation Manufacturers Association	Westchester Aircraft Maintenance Association