

April 20, 2021

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

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
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 Richard Shelby
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 Brian Schatz
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 Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Transportation, House and Urban
Development and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FY 2022 Funding for Aviation Technician & Pilot Workforce Grant Programs

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairmen Leahy, Price and Schatz, Vice Chairman Shelby and Ranking Members Granger, Diaz-Balart and Collins:

As you begin the FY 2022 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 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, \$10 million total) for FYs 2020 and 2021 and pleased the FAA initiated them earlier this year. We understand that there have been numerous applications and considerable interest in both programs.

As the industry begins to recover from the worst economic conditions it has ever experienced, the grant programs are more important than ever. Due to pandemic-related economic disruptions, many seasoned pilots and technicians retired early over the past year. This has only exacerbated the shortage of the skilled personnel the industry needs to operate safely and efficiently.

Letter to Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairmen Leahy, Price and Schatz, Vice Chairman Shelby and Ranking Members Granger, Diaz-Balart, and Collins
Aviation Industry Urges Full Funding for Aviation Workforce Grant Programs in FY 2022
April 20, 2021
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 FYs 2020 and 2021 and for considering our request for these important resources in FY 2022. 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
Aerospace Industries Association
Aerospace Maintenance Council
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airlines for America
Air Medical Operators Association
Airports Council International –
North America
Allied Pilots Association
American Association of Airport Executives
Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems
International
Association for Women in Aviation
Maintenance
Aviation Council of Pennsylvania
Aviation Suppliers Association
Aviation Technician Education Council
Cargo Airline Association
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations
Experimental Aircraft Association
Flight School Association of North America

General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Greater Miami Aviation Association
Helicopter Association International
International Air Transport Association
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Council of Air Shows
Modification and Replacement Parts
Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Association of State Aviation Officials
National Business Aviation Association
National League of Cities
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission
Professional Aviation Maintenance Association
Recreational Aviation Foundation
Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association
Regional Airline Association
South Florida Aviation Maintenance Council
Veterans Airlift Command
Westchester Aircraft Maintenance Association