



Reduce Barriers to Career and Technical Education in our Nation's Education System

The U.S. economy continues to grow, but that growth is constrained by a shortage of qualified workers. The U.S. manufacturing sector currently has more than 350,000 unfilled skilled jobs, and millions of manufacturing employees are expected to retire in the next few years.

Today, more than 80% of U.S. metalcasters report a talent shortage in the industry—from production, maintenance and technician positions, to machinists, electricians, patternmakers, and foundry engineers. Over the next decade, nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will likely need to be filled. To compete globally, U.S. metalcasters require high-quality workers, as well as a strong technical workforce.

The American Foundry Society (AFS), along with our chapter organizations, works diligently to attract employees to our industry. Metalcasters introduce the metalcasting process through “Foundry in a Box,” with interactive demonstrations at local elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, science fairs, and other venues. Thirty-five student chapters exist at universities and community colleges across North America. Many AFS chapters provide support, including scholarships, to students at community colleges and universities with metalcasting programs. In turn, our member companies provide internships for these students, many of whom obtain full-time positions at foundries when they graduate.

AFS supports better coordination among educators, government, and the private sector in order to recruit prospective employees into manufacturing and provide them the K-12 foundation and job training to fill positions at our facilities. Federal funds slated for higher education programs should be available for non-traditional, non-four-year programs such as apprenticeships, short-term manufacturing-related job training programs, and other technical training programs. U.S. taxpayers currently spend \$140 billion on secondary education programs, and only 14% goes toward occupational or career and technical training programs.

MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

AFS urges lawmakers to support passage of the following legislation to modernize our nation's education system:

Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act (JOBS Act) (S.839)

This bipartisan bill expands financial aid (Pell grants) to include students enrolled in high-quality and rigorous short-term job training programs that are at least eight weeks long and lead to industry-based credentials.

- Under current law, Pell Grants—Needs-based grants for low-income and working students—can only be applied toward programs that are over 600 clock hours or at least 15 weeks in length, even though many job training programs are shorter-term.

Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act (S.634/H.R. 1434)

This legislation would expand elementary, secondary, and vocational education opportunities for students by:

- Creating a federal tax credit for contributions from individuals and businesses to nonprofit scholarship funds.
- Allowing for scholarships related to career and technical education, apprenticeships, certifications, other forms of workforce training for postsecondary students.

**For further information, contact:
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Message To Congress

Urge your Senators to co-sponsor and support passage of the Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act (JOBS Act) (S. 389). Thank the following Senators for co-sponsoring:

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Sen. Shelley Capito (R-WVA)
Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)
Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)

Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH)
Sen. Doug Jones (D-AL)
Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) *

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)
Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)*
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)

**Original Sponsors*

To co-sponsor the JOBS Act (S.389), contact:

Megan Harrington, megan_harrington@portman.senate.gov, Legislative Assistant, Office of **Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)**,
or **Karishma Merchant**, karishma_merchant@kaine.senate.gov, Senior Adviser, Office of **Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)**.

Urge your Senators to co-sponsor and support passage of the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act (S.634). Thank the following Senators for co-sponsoring:

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) *
Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)
Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)

Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)
Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA)
Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)

** Original Sponsor*

To co-sponsor the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act, S.634, contact:

Ariel Gordon, ariel_gordon@cruz.senate.gov, Legislative Aide, Office of **Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)**.

Urge your House lawmakers to co-sponsor and support passage of the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act (H.R. 1434) complementary legislation to S.634. Thank the following House lawmakers for co-sponsoring:

Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA)
Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)
Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN)
Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN)
Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY)
Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ)
Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)
Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN)
Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN)
Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC)
Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL)*
Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH)
Rep. Lynn Cheney (R-WY)
Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC)
Rep. Bill Flores (R-TX)
Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL)
Rep. Greg Gianforte (R-MT)
Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)

Rep. Tom Graves (R-GA)
Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)
Rep. Jim Hagedorn (R-MN)
Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD)
Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA)
Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI)
Rep. David Kustoff (R-TN)
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)
Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ)
Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA)
Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO)
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC)
Rep. Paul Mitchell (R-MI)
Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI)
Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV)
Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA)
Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC)

Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL)
Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC)
Rep. Martha Roby (R-LA)
Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN)
Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)
Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL)
Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA)
Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)
Rep. Ross Spano (R-FL)
Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH)
Rep. William Timmons (R-SC)
Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN)
Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX)
Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Rep. Ron Wright (R-TX)
Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL)

** Original Sponsor*

To co-sponsor the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act, H.R.1434, contact:

Miriam Fry, Miriam.Fry@mail.house.gov, Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of **Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL)**.



ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. INNOVATE.