ISSUE BACKGROUND

College may be the right path for some. According to the National Skills Coalition, most of the American labor market comprises middle-skill jobs that require more than a high school education but not a bachelor’s degree. Key industries struggle to find adequately trained workers to fill these jobs.

Even for those who have completed college, professional certification is a key differentiator for obtaining a job at any skill level. These credentials give workers the recognition they need to compete for jobs in the 21st-century economy. They also open new avenues for professional growth and development and signal to employers and potential customers that certification-holders have met established standards for knowledge, specialized skills, and competencies.

The Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act in both the House of Representatives (H.R. 1477) and the Senate (S. 722) expands eligible uses of tax-favorable 529 savings plans to cover costs associated with workforce training and credentialing programs such as AMPP’s education and credentialing opportunities.

• This bipartisan legislation provides valuable tax-advantaged resources for workers who pursue alternative career pathways, mid-career changes, or career growth by boosting their career prospects and earning potential at any phase of their careers and educational backgrounds.

• The bill allows members to use the 529 accounts to help pay tuition for participation in certification programs or continuing education courses, including required books and equipment associated with the certification program.

• The bill allows 529 savings plan beneficiaries to use their funds to pay for examination/testing fees charged by the program or by independent certification organizations to obtain and maintain recognized professional certifications and other materials protection credentials.

ACT NOW

• Changes are needed as only costs related to attending colleges, universities, vocational schools, registered apprenticeships programs, K-12 private tuition, and other post-secondary institutions are eligible for current 529 expenses. The bill intends to build the groundwork for a strong and equitable job market by emphasizing workforce training, supporting company investment in skills enhancement, and fostering job creation and economic growth.

• To support this legislation, please visit the AMPP Advocacy Action Center. This will help you get in contact with your local Congressional representatives to show the importance of this legislation for the materials protection industry.

ABOUT AMPP

The Association for Materials Protection and Performance, AMPP, is the world’s leading organization focused on protecting assets and the performance of materials. AMPP was created when NACE International and SSPC: The Society for Protective Coatings united after more than 145 combined years of expertise in corrosion control and protective coatings and service to members worldwide. Today, AMPP is active in more than 130 countries, has more than 36,000 members, and is the leading resource for information, education and expertise in corrosion control and materials protection. AMPP is headquartered in the United States with offices in Houston, Texas, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Additional offices are in the United Kingdom, China, Malaysia, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia, with training centers in Houston and Dubai.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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