



ALPA FACT SHEET

Maintaining a Robust U.S. Pilot Supply

Breaking Down Barriers and Opening the Doors of Opportunity

The Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l (ALPA) is fully committed to ensuring that the United States has a robust supply of highly trained pilots and creating a more diverse and inclusive air transportation workforce. ALPA believes that action is needed in several critical areas to break down barriers and open opportunities to foster an aviation workforce that reflects the communities and customers our industry serves, while maintaining the highest safety standards in the world.

To do more to ensure that the piloting profession is welcoming and accessible to all, particularly those who have traditionally been underrepresented in our career, ALPA supports:

Aligning federal funding support for the education required to become an airline pilot with that of other highly skilled professions

- Authorizing and increasing federal educational aid programs such as the Pell Grant to provide financial assistance to students pursuing two- and four-year degrees at post-secondary higher education institutions to cover the costs of aviation flight training.
- Creating a student loan cancellation program that allows airline pilots to work for a specific period in exchange for loan forgiveness for airlines that serve the public need, including those that provide humanitarian relief through organizations such as Air Serv International or Doctors Without Borders, and advance public health through the World Health Organization.
- Reviewing government guidelines to increase the number and amounts of subsidized loans available to students for flight training, and ensure students who receive unsubsidized loans do not accrue interest on the loans while in school.

Making aviation education more accessible to minorities and underrepresented groups

- Providing federal grants to minority-serving institutions that want to start aviation professional

flight degree programs and those that already offer two- and four-year degrees that include flight training and want to expand their programs.

- Providing federal support to other colleges and universities that serve underrepresented communities to begin aviation degree programs that include flight training.

ALPA is also focused on improving the entry point to the piloting career while maintaining the first officer qualification requirements that have helped make U.S. air transportation the safest in the world. Some may argue that we should lower the safety bar to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the piloting profession, but we reject this false choice. ALPA believes we can—and must—do more as a nation to open the doors of opportunity for those currently underrepresented in the piloting profession while maintaining the highest safety standards in the world.

We can all agree that attracting the best and the brightest to join the ranks of today's professional airline pilots should be a priority across the industry. ALPA has long been and remains committed to fostering a safe, competitive, modern, and resilient transportation system, which means creating a more diverse and inclusive air transportation workforce. And it is critical that the United States continues to stand as the unquestioned global leader in aviation safety. ALPA will continue all efforts to ensure the United States has even more qualified and diverse aviators in the pipeline for years to come.