



October 17, 2023

The Honorable Derrick Van Orden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
364 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20024

Chairman Van Orden,

We are writing to share our support for H.R. 2830, the *Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act of 2023*.

H.R. 2830 is commonsense legislation that will reduce barriers that veterans face in getting high-quality training for good paying truck driving careers. Because of their extensive training, exceptional professionalism, and mission-focused approach, veterans are ideal candidates for the trucking workforce. The relief provided under this bipartisan proposal will give veterans additional choices when seeking out professional truck driving careers.

The Commercial Vehicle Training Association (CVTA) is the largest association of truck driver training programs in the U.S. CVTA's membership includes nearly 100 member schools with 400 training locations in 46 states. CVTA schools train the largest collective source of entry-level truck drivers in the nation, instructing 100,000 new Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) drivers each year.

The professional truck driver training programs provided by CVTA's membership equip students with the skills they need to earn their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and succeed in the workforce. CVTA schools strive to provide students with training that surpasses federal minimum training requirements for entry-level truck drivers. Owing to that, CVTA member schools maintain hiring relationships with leading national motor carriers that allow their students to garner job offers immediately upon completion of their training.

Truck driver training sets people on the path towards a rewarding career. Truck driving jobs had median wages of \$55,000 to \$85,000 in 2021, according to a compensation survey conducted by the American Trucking Associations (ATA).¹ At least three-in-four carriers surveyed by ATA offered employment benefits including paid holidays, paid leave, health insurance, and retirement plans.

Truck driver training also helps support critical functions of the nation's supply chain. The trucking industry faced a shortage of nearly 78,000 drivers in 2022, according to ATA analysis. In total, the

¹ American Trucking Associations, "2022 Driver Compensation Study: Advanced Executive Summary," June 30, 2022, https://ata.msgfocus.com/files/amf_highroad_solution/project_2358/ATA_2022_Driver_Compensation_Study_-_Press_Executive_Summary.pdf

industry will have to recruit nearly 1.2 million new drivers over the next decade to replace retiring drivers, drivers who leave the industry, and to keep pace with industry growth.²

CVTA members are proud to provide high-quality training and career opportunities to people who return home after serving our nation.³ Passage of H.R. 2830 will provide meaningful support and will assist CVTA members in continuing to meet that honorable responsibility.

We respectfully ask that members of this committee support this important proposal.

Sincerely,



Jerome Redmond
Chairman
Commercial Vehicle Training Association



Andrew Poliakoff
Executive Director
Commercial Vehicle Training Association

² American Trucking Associations (ATA), "Driver Shortage Update 2022," October 25, 2022, https://ata.msgfocus.com/files/amf_highroad_solution/project_2358/ATA_Driver_Shortage_Report_2022_Executive_Summary.October22.pdf

³ CVTA supports benevolent competitions like the [Transition Trucking: Driving for Excellence](#) campaign that recognize veterans who join the trucking workforce.