

## About US

AWFS's members include manufacturers and distributors of machinery, hardware, lumber, upholstery materials, bedding components, plastics, wood products, and other supplies.

Our goal has two branches. First, we want to ensure that the current workforce has access to knowledge about the latest tools, technologies, and policies. Second, we want to equip the next generation of industry leaders with a full understanding of the woodworking industry.



## Legislative Priorities

**Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act:** permits the use of 529 account funds to pay for post-secondary training programs. This will help more Americans obtain and retain well-paying jobs that don't require a traditional four-year degree.

- ProvideS tax-advantaged resources to families, students, and workers — regardless of whether they possess a college degree — pursuing career growth, mid-career changes, or pathways diverging from traditional academic routes.

**Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act.:** Establishes a new task force or similar structure within the DOJ's Criminal Division to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes.

- Enhances nationwide responses to trade-related offenses by providing training and technical assistance to other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, expanding investigations and prosecutions, and allowing for parallel criminal and civil enforcement actions.
- Requires the Attorney General to submit an annual report to Congress assessing the DOJ's efforts, statistics on trade-related crimes, and fund utilization.
- Authorizes funding for FY26 to support these efforts with appropriate guardrails.



## Contact US

**Tovi Spero**  
Education Director, AWFS  
[tovi@awfs.org](mailto:tovi@awfs.org)





## Sustainability and AWFS

The Association of Woodworking & Furnishing Suppliers (AWFS) recognizes the critical importance of sustainability within our industry and the broader global context. We are committed to promoting practices that protect our natural resources, reduce waste, and ensure a thriving future for woodworking and furnishing.

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### Why Sustainability Matters to AWFS

- **Resource Preservation:** Our industry relies on natural resources. Sustainable practices ensure the long-term availability of these resources.
- **Economic Viability:** Sustainable businesses often find efficiencies and cost savings through reduced waste and optimized processes.
- **Consumer Demand:** Increasingly, consumers are seeking products made with sustainable materials and practices.
- **Environmental Responsibility:** We have a responsibility to minimize our environmental impact and contribute to a healthier planet.

## S. 1094 Mass Timber Federal Buildings Act

- **The bipartisan Mass Timber Federal Buildings Act—which is cosponsored by Oregon’s U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and Idaho’s U.S. Senator Mike Crapo—would incentivize the use of mass timber building materials by providing a preference in federal building contracts for mass timber products, giving mass timber companies the ability to compete for federal construction, renovation, or acquisition of public buildings and for military construction.**

## H.R. 262 Disaster Reforestation Act

- **Disaster Reforestation Act** This bill establishes a special rule for casualty losses of uncut timber from fire, storm, or other casualty, or from theft. The basis for determining the amount of the deduction for such loss shall not be less than the excess of (1) the appraised value of such timber determined immediately before the loss was sustained, over (2) the salvage value of the timber.





## WHAT INDUSTRIES NEED



### Skilled and Motivated Students to the Workforce

The woodworking industry has seen fluctuations over the decades. In the early 2000s, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported approximately 600,000 woodworking professionals. However, recent estimates suggest a decline, with current numbers hovering around 450,000. This reduction highlights the need for strategic intervention to revitalize the sector.

**Bridging the Skills Gap:** CTE programs can provide targeted training in modern woodworking techniques and technologies, equipping workers with the skills employers need.

**Attracting New Talent:** By offering clear career pathways and opportunities for advancement, CTE can attract younger individuals to the woodworking industry.

**Enhancing Competitiveness:** A highly skilled workforce ensures that American woodworking businesses remain competitive in the global market.

**Supporting Economic Growth:** Investing in CTE leads to increased productivity, innovation, and economic growth within the industry.

## Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act H.R.1151

- The legislation aims to broaden the scope of qualified expenses under 529 savings plans to include postsecondary training and credentialing, including licenses and non-governmental certifications. The bill would provide tax-advantaged resources to families, students, and workers — regardless of whether they possess a college degree — pursuing career growth, mid-career changes, or pathways diverging from traditional academic routes.

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## CCP Devastating Trade VIA Fraud

The Association of Woodworking & Furnishing Suppliers (AWFS) believes it is critical to hold China accountable for fraudulent products that saturate American furniture products.

**The woodworking industry plays a vital role in the American economy, providing jobs and contributing to local communities.**

### Fair Trade Practices

H.R.1869 aims to ensure fair trade practices, preventing the dumping of unfairly priced or subsidized imported wood products into the American market.

### Maintaining Quality Standards

By addressing trade crimes, the act helps maintain quality standards in the woodworking industry. It discourages the import of substandard or illegally sourced wood products that can undermine the reputation and integrity of American-made goods.

### Strengthening Domestic Supply Chains

H.R.1869 encourages the use of domestically sourced materials, strengthening American supply chains and reducing dependence on potentially unreliable or unethical international sources. This stability is crucial for the long-term health of the woodworking industry.

### Promoting Sustainable Practices

The act supports sustainable forestry practices by addressing illegal logging and trade. It helps ensure that wood products are sourced responsibly, promoting environmental stewardship and long-term resource availability.

## H.R.1869 - Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2025

- **Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2025** This bill requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish a new task force, named program, or similar structure to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes, with particular emphasis on violations of laws and regulations relating to U.S. imports and exports, trade-based money laundering, and smuggling. DOJ must also increase the capabilities and capacity of the Criminal Division to prosecute such crimes, and increase prosecutions of such crimes.

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## S. 383 JOBS Act of 2025

- **Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act of 2025 or the JOBS Act of 2025** This bill extends the Job Training Federal Pell Grant Program to certain career and technical education programs at institutions of higher education (IHEs) that provide at least 150 and 600 clock hours of instructional time over a period of at least eight weeks and not more than 15 weeks. The bill defines eligible career pathway programs as programs that (1) are listed on the provider list of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; (2) are part of a career pathway; and (3) are aligned to a program of study as defined in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

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