



For Immediate Release
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Donalds Leads Bipartisan Coalition To Solve The Critical Pilot Shortage Facing America

WASHINGTON – Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) has announced the introduction of [legislation](#) to address the critical pilot shortage facing our nation.

[H.R. 2182 – "The Bipartisan Pre-Pilot Pathway Act"](#) is the 10th piece of legislation introduced by Congressman Donalds during the 119th Congress and has received the support of Representatives Don Davis (D-NC) and Troy Nehls (R-TX) as well as the National Flight Training Alliance.

Specifically, this [legislation](#): (1) Directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot apprenticeship program for students at Part 141 flight training facilities within 12 months of enactment; (2) Allows for participating facilities in this voluntary program to select up to 8 applicants to serve as apprentices each academic year; (3) Helps to establish a qualified pipeline of interested individuals to become pilots. Congressman Donalds released the following statement:

"America is facing a critical pilot shortage and we must act before it's too late. This is why I introduced the 'Bipartisan Pre-Pilot Pathway Act.' My common-sense proposal addresses our national shortage head-on by creating a pilot apprenticeship program to bolster our nation's waning talent pipeline. Ensuring the safety and efficiency of American air travel should be bipartisan and I thank Representatives Davis and Nehls for joining me in this important initiative."

Background:

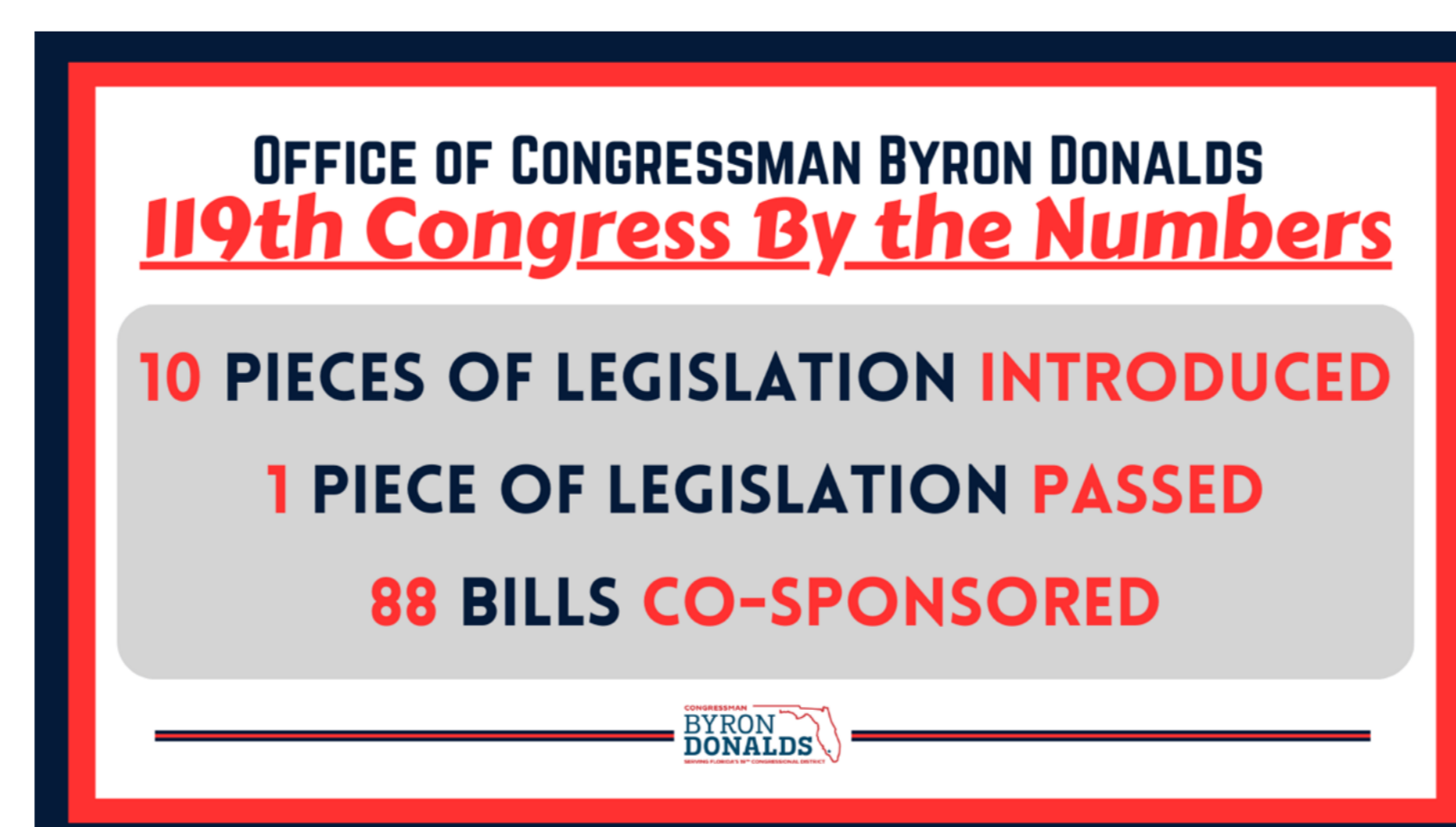
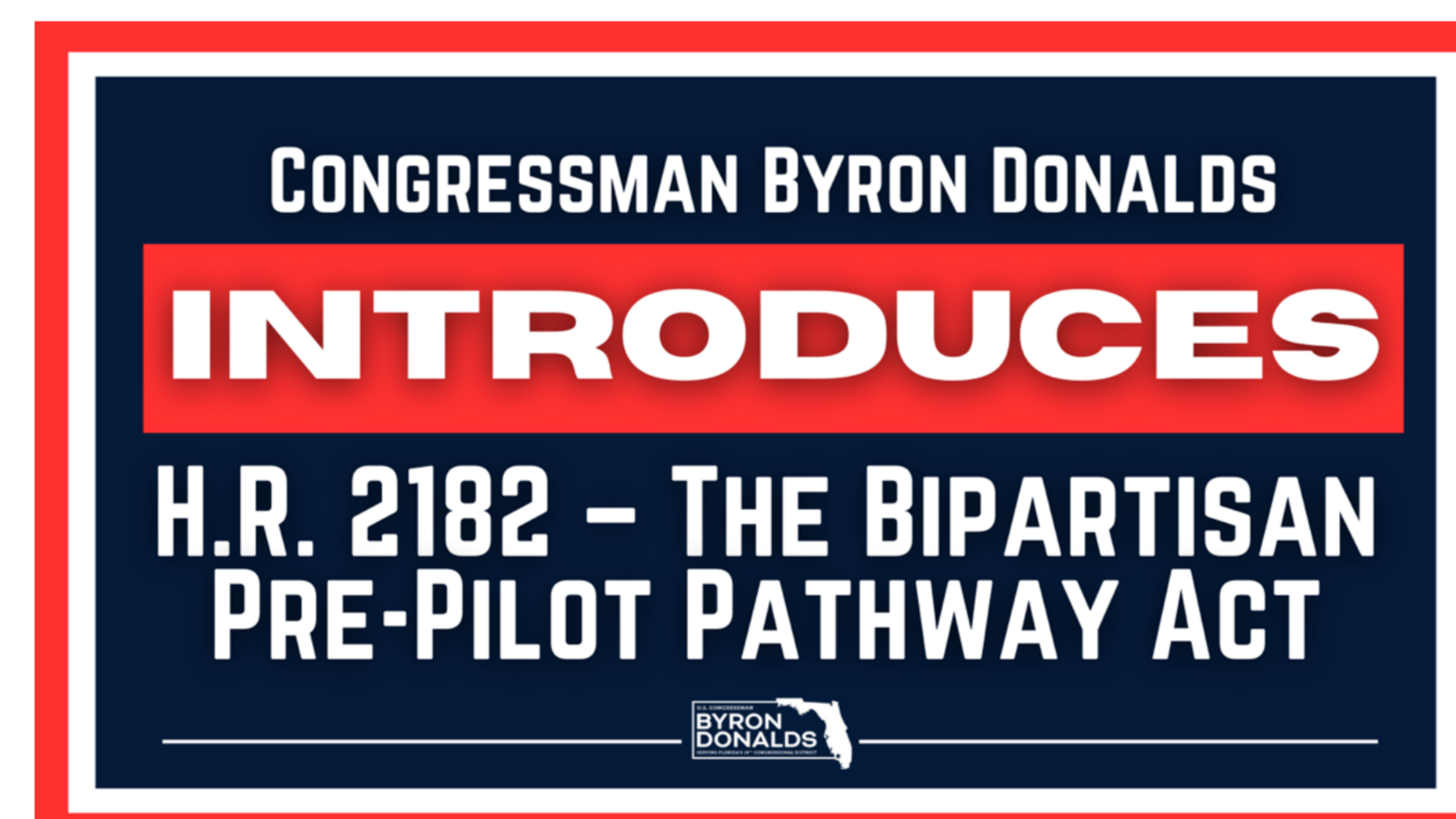
- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), it's projected that 14,500 pilots will be needed every year through 2030.
- The shortage is estimated to be 17,000 commercial aviation pilots by 2030.
- The shortage arises from a combination of factors, including baby boomers reaching the mandatory retirement age of 65, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a shrinking pool of potential pilot candidates.

Specifics of the Pilot Apprenticeship Program:

- **Why Flight Training Facilities**—Part 141 flight training facilities may be able to provide a greater variety of training aids and require dedicated training facilities, flight instructor oversight, and FAA-approved curricula.
 - Under the 141 program, pilots will benefit from receiving an airline standard of training—which allows the pilot to move onto a Part 121 airline, Part 135 commercial charter operation, Part 91 private operation, or to enjoy a future career as a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI).
- **What's the Traditional Pilot Path**— Student → Flight Instructor → Regional Pilot → Major Airline Pilot
 - With the increased demand for pilots, training facilities are seeing more students enrolling in their programs.
 - Currently, there are approximately 600 Part 141 flight training facilities that have been licensed by the FAA.

More:

- Read Text of H.R. 2182 – "The Bipartisan Pre-Pilot Pathway Act" [HERE](#).
- Bill Profile of H.R. 2182 – "The Bipartisan Pre-Pilot Pathway Act" [HERE](#).
- See H.R. 2182 Social Media Summary Graphics [HERE](#) or [BELOW](#):



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