

# HARDI ADVOCACY

## DRIVE-Safe Act- H.R.1374 and S.569

- HVACR wholesale distribution is experiencing a shortage of qualified workers to move products through the interstate supply chain
- Provides safety training to allow crossing state lines by drivers under 21. Requires collision avoidance equipment to improve safety
- Introducing younger drivers into the trucking profession with a chance to get the training they need will help fill needed jobs within the industry

**WHAT IS HARDI ASKING?** HARDI is asking members of Congress and Senate to pass legislation (H.R.1374 and S.569) to allow younger drivers to enter the trucking industry after completing special training to alleviate the current shortage of qualified CDL holders.

### **WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

HVACR wholesale distribution is experiencing a chronic shortage of qualified drivers who are needed to move products through the interstate supply chain. Commercially licensed truck drivers are the backbone of the HVACR logistics network, safely transporting equipment from suppliers to distributors between warehouses, and from distributors to customers. A major complication is the inconsistency between intrastate commerce and interstate commerce regulations. Currently, 48 states permit the issuing of commercial drivers' licenses at the age of 18 for intrastate commerce. However, in order to cross state lines, drivers must be age 21 or older by federal law.

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

The bipartisan bill, *Developing Responsible Individuals for a vibrant Economy Act* (H.R.1374 and S.569) also called the "DRIVE-safe Act" creates a multi-step apprenticeship program that includes in-depth training and performance benchmarks that each candidate must satisfy. The bill requires candidates to complete 400 hours of on-duty time and 240 hours of driving time supervised by an experienced commercial licensed driver. All trucks to be used in training must be equipped with safety technology including active braking collision mitigation systems, video event capture, and a speed governor set at 65 miles per hour or below. Currently a driver can begin driving across state lines without any additional training simply by turning 21. Introducing younger drivers into the trucking profession with a chance to get the training they need to safely operate will help fill needed jobs within the industry.

The DRIVE-safe Act would offer high school graduates the ability to train and enter, in-demand jobs for the HVACR industry. This legislation would take a much-needed step to reduce unemployment and fill the shortage gap of qualified CDL holders. HARDI will continue to keep members informed of the status of the DRIVE-safe Act.