

AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA 2025 CONTRACTOR POLICY PRIORITIES

ACCA fights to improve the quality of contractors' lives and the professionalism of the HVACR industry.
Learn more at accaprof.org/advocacy.



Priority #1

Workforce: Level the Playing Field for Skilled Trades

Too many federal incentives steer students toward 4-year universities and a lifetime of debt. Contractors are stepping up, investing millions to build in-house training programs, but federal policy hasn't caught up. It's time to level the playing field for career and technical education (CTE) generally and contractors' in-house training programs in particular.



**A critical
workforce
shortage**

of HVACR
technicians
and installers

**42,500
Unfilled
job
openings**

110,000

**Job
openings
expected
by 2030***

*Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Thank
you!*

The One Big Beautiful Bill took two
HUGE steps in the right direction:

- **529 accounts** can now cover more skilled trades credentialing.
- **Pell grants** can now cover more short-term training programs.



How Congress can help: Reauthorize and fund WIOA and Perkins

Please support reauthorization and increased appropriations for programs like the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Perkins grants to help train the next generation of HVACR technicians and business owners.

Priority #2

Protect Fuel and Technology Choice

Contractors call upon decades of experience and industry standards to help consumers balance comfort, safety, efficiency, and affordability in designing comfort systems for their homes and businesses. But regulators increasingly limit consumer choice with bans on natural gas or specific technologies like non-condensing furnaces.



NEWS & STORIES / LAW & COURTS

Washington voter-approved natural gas initiative thrown out as 'unconstitutional' by judge

KUOW Staff
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Building Industry Association of Washington executive director Greg Lane (pictured right) and Let's Go Washington founder Brian Heywood (center right) help turn in boxes of signatures supporting I-2066, the initiative focused on protecting natural gas access, at the Secretary of State's office in Tumwater Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

KUOW Photo / Jeanie Lindsay

Regulators in at least

11 STATES

have restricted access to gas equipment and incentives forcing oversized heat pumps and inefficient alternatives that reduce comfort and affordability while straining our electric grid.

How Congress can help: Cosponsor the Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699/S. 1945)

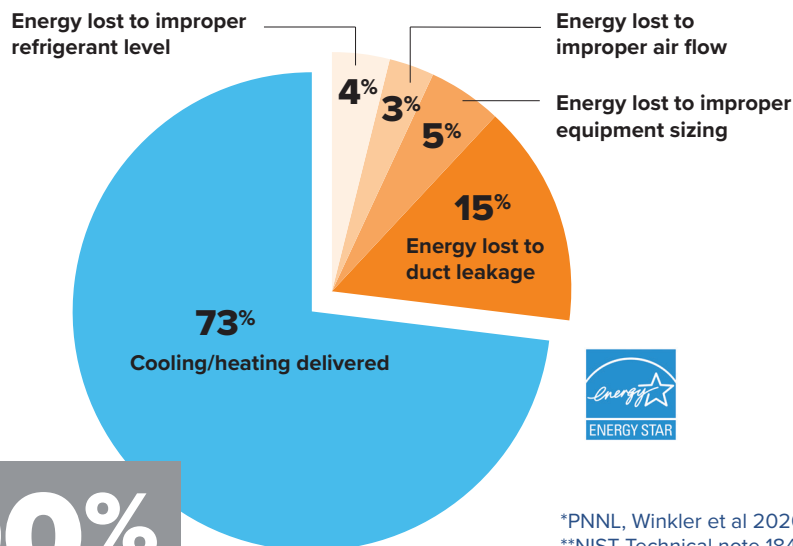
ACCA applauds the 27 states that have acted to protect access to efficient gas equipment. Congress can ensure all Americans have access to a full range of efficient, safe, and affordable choices by passing the Energy Choice Act.

Priority #3

Promote Energy Efficiency Through Quality Installation

Efficiency incentives should reward quality installation, not just equipment ratings. Fortunately, smart connected tools and third-party verification like ACCA's Quality Installation (QI) certificates now allow policymakers to incentivize realized efficiency like never before.

Typical air conditioner or heat pump installation



A second chance for efficiency tax incentives?

We agree efficiency tax incentives could be improved and more affordable, but the One Big Beautiful Bill left no room for nuance – 25C, 179D, 45L, and 25D were eliminated entirely. Dozens of House Republicans signed letters supporting these credits and they could be restored at a lower cost by eliminating prevailing wage bonuses and adding **quality installation requirements**.

90%

of residential HVAC systems have significant installation faults,* costing

30-50%

of their rated efficiency.**

How Congress can help: Restore and improve efficiency tax incentives

Help consumers afford smart, fuel-neutral efficiency upgrades by restoring the 25C Home Energy Efficiency Tax Credit, 179D Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Deduction, 45L Energy-Efficient Home Credit, and 25D Residential Clean Energy Credit.

Priority #4

Minimize Disruption from Refrigerant Transitions

Even as contractors help their customers navigate a costly transition from HFC refrigerants to mildly flammable A2L refrigerants, some states are already pushing another transition to highly flammable A3 refrigerants as soon as 2034. Congress should act to prevent a chaotic and costly patchwork of state refrigerant regulations.



Fulfilling the promise of the AIM Act

The AIM Act of 2020 was enacted with bipartisan support because it promised an orderly, national phase down of HFCs, but it failed to prevent California, Washington, New York, and others from moving towards a patchwork of accelerated phase-outs, reclaim mandates, and certification requirements.



New York State's Part 494 regulation effectively mandates a transition to highly flammable propane by 2034. Our industry is nowhere near ready.

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How Congress can help: Add federal preemption to the AIM Act

Congress should avert a dangerous rush to highly flammable A3 refrigerants and uphold the original promise of the AIM Act by amending it to preempt state refrigerant regulations.