

May 16, 2017

The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott and Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

We, the undersigned businesses and organizations, support reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act that will help Americans develop the skills they need to compete for high-skilled, in-demand jobs.

In 2016, the House of Representatives passed “the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.” That legislation was a bipartisan effort that would have helped our nation’s students acquire the skills needed to be successful in today’s work environment. While the legislation had overwhelming support, passing the House of Representatives by a vote of 405-5, it did not receive Senate consideration.

Employers are reporting a shortage of skilled workers to fill in-demand positions. Modernized and relevant career and technical education (CTE) programs, designed with the input of employers and responsive to the needs identified by labor market data, are central to overcoming this skills gap.

CTE is an effective tool for improving student outcomes and helps prepare both secondary and postsecondary students with the necessary academic, technical and employability skills required to be successful in the workforce. CTE prepares students both for college and careers and is critical to meeting the needs of this new 21st century economy.

New legislation should focus on areas where improvements can be made to current law, such as:

- Align CTE programs to the needs of the regional, state, and local labor market;
- Support effective and meaningful collaboration between secondary and postsecondary

institutions and employers;

- Increase student participation in work-based learning opportunities; and
- Promote the use of industry recognized credentials and other recognized postsecondary credentials.

These improvements will more effectively spend federal dollars to help our nation's students acquire the skills that they need and employers are demanding. We urge you to move forward with reauthorization of Perkins Career and Technical Education based on the broadly supported legislation from 2016 and appreciate the ongoing, bipartisan commitment to invest in our nation's students, workers and economy through the Perkins CTE program.

Sincerely,

Abbott
Accelerated Achievements LLC
AccuRounds
ACT, Inc.
Action Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Afterschool Alliance
AIMS360
Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA)
Air Handling Systems, Inc.
Air-conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute
AK Steel Corporation
Alaska Chamber
Allegheny Conference on Community Development
ALLETE / Minnesota Power
Alloy Engineering Co., Inc.
American Architectural Manufacturers Association
American Axle & Manufacturing
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Counseling Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Federation of Teachers
American Society of Employers
American Supply Association
American Welding Society
American Wire Producers Association
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Arizona Technology Council
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors
Associated Industries of Arkansas
Associated Industries of Massachusetts

Association for Talent Development
Association of Washington Business
Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers (AWFS)
Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation
Austin Community College District
Automation Federation
Banner Metals Group, Inc.
BASF Corporation
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Battelle Memorial Institute
Baumueller - Nuermont Corp
Blackman Middle School
Blue Ocean Systems
The Boeing Company
Bosch
Boson Software, LLC
Boys & Girls Clubs of Rutherford County
Bridgeport Fittings, Inc.
Bridgestone North American Manufacturing Education Center
BSA | The Software Alliance
Business Council of Alabama
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.
The Business Council of Westchester
CA Technologies
Cameron Manufacturing & Design
Capital Region Chamber
Career & Technical Association of Texas
Carter-McGowan Services, LLC
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce
Code.org
CodeHS
Cognizant Technology Solutions
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Colonial Circuits, Inc.
Comer & Company
Committee for Children
Communities in Schools of Mid America, Inc.
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
Community Health Charities
Composite Panel Association
CompTIA
CONNSTEP Inc.
Consumer Specialty Products Association
Council of Industry of Southeastern New York

Dallas Regional Chamber
DeLaSalle Education Center
Deloitte LLP
Delta Systems, Inc.
Emerson
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
Farm Flavor Media
Flowing Wells Unified School District
Forging Industry Association
Fort Wayne Metals Research Products
The French Oil Mill Machinery Co.
Fremont Interiors, Inc
Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc. (FBLA-PBL)
General and Automotive Machine Shop, Inc.
Genesys Works
Georgia Association of Manufacturers
Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
Gerdau Long Steel North America
Giant Steps of St. Louis
Global Chain Alliance
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
Greater Baltimore Committee
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Greater Dubuque Development Corporation
Greater Houston Partnership/UpSkill Houston
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
Gruber Systems, Inc.
Hardwood Federation
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC
HealthCode
Heating, Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI)
Hi-Lex Controls, Inc.
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Houston Independent School District
IBM
INDA, The Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Independent Electrical Contractors
Industrial Fasteners Institute
Industrial Minerals Association - North America
Industrial Tool Die & Engineering, Inc.
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Ingersoll-Rand
Institute of Makers of Explosives

Intel Corporation
Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute
International Paper
International Sign Association
International Technology and Engineering Educators Association-ITEEA
Investment Casting Institute
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Iowa Department of Education
IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
Jamison Door Company
Jones College of Business, Middle Tennessee State University
Junior Achievement of Oklahoma
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Knoxville Chamber
Kopy King
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce
Laredo Chamber of Commerce
Leading Builders of America
Longview TX Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
Lovejoy Chaplet Corp.
The Lucille and Edward R. Roybal Foundation
Magnet Schools of America
MAHLE Filter Systems
Manufacturing Skill Standards Council
Marlin Steel Wire Products LLC
Maryland Business Roundtable for Education
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
Massachusetts Business Roundtable
Metal Powder Industries Federation
Metals Service Center Institute
Metro Atlanta Chamber
MetroHartford Alliance
MGK
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Mid-South Livestock Center, LLC
Miles Fiberglass & Composites Inc.
Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Manufacturing Association
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Motorola Solutions, Inc.
NAACP

National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Association of Trailer Manufacturers
National Cart Co., Inc.
National Center for College and Career Transitions
National Center for Technological Literacy at the Museum of Science, Boston
National Concrete Masonry Association
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
The National Council for Workforce Education
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National FFA Organization
National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI)
National Retail Federation
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Science Education Leadership Association
National Skills Coalition
National Waste and Recycling Association
National Wood Flooring Association
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Nevada Manufacturers Association
Nevada System of Higher Education, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development
New England Council
New Jersey Business & Industry Association
New Mexico Business Coalition
Nocti Business Solutions
North American Technician Excellence
Northampton Community College
Northeast PA Manufacturers & Employers Association
NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies
Opportunity America
Opportunity Nation
Oracle
Partnership for Air Conditioning, Heating, Refrigeration Accreditation
Partnership for New York City
Peirce College
Philadelphia Technician Training Institute
The Plastics Industry Association
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors--National Association
PMMI The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Port Townsend Paper Corporation
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

Profit Miners, Inc.
Project Lead The Way
Quality Float Works, Inc.
Rayonier Advanced Materials
READY Nationwide
Red Bud Industries, Inc.
Regal Beloit Corporation
Rhode Island Manufacturing Association
River City High School
Roaring Spring Blank Book Co.
RoMan Manufacturing, Inc.
Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce
Rutherford County Schools
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI)
Shipbuilders Council of America
Siegel High School
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
The Silicon Valley Organization
SkillSmart, Inc.
The Society for Maintenance & Reliability Professionals (SMRP)
Society of Women Engineers
Software & Information Industry Association
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Southern Arizona Manufacturing Partners
Specialty Equipment Market Association
SPT Consulting LLC
Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.
Superior Graphite Company
TechNet
Technology Association of Iowa Educational Foundation
Technology Association of Louisville Kentucky
Technology Student Association
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc.
Tennessee Manufacturers Association
Texas Association of Business
Texas Association of Manufacturers
Third Way
Toyota Motor North America
Unex Manufacturing, Inc.
Union Roofing Contractors Association
United Way of Central Iowa
United Way of Greater Houston
United Way of Southern Cameron County

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
United Ways of Texas
Univision
Uniweld Products, Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
US Medical IT
Vermont Chamber of Commerce
Vermont Technology Alliance
Vernier Software & Technology, LLC
Virginia Manufacturers Association
Volvo Group North America
Walker Machinery Company
Wearwell, Inc.
West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education
Whayne Supply Company
WilliamsRDM
Wood Component Manufacturers Association (WCMA)
Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America
Woodwork Career Alliance
Xerox Corporation
Young Invincibles
Zero Zone, Inc.