

Congressional Career & Technical Education Caucus

Support Funding for Career and Technical Education

Dear Colleague:

As co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Career & Technical Education (CTE) Caucus, we invite you to join us in sending a letter to appropriators requesting strong funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill.

The Perkins Act is the primary source of federal funding for state and local CTE programs. In every congressional district, CTE programs play a vital role in ensuring workers remain competitive in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career fields, including engineering, information technology, healthcare, and skilled trades, all of which have hundreds of thousands of job openings across the country.

Any reduction in Perkins funding would adversely affect millions of career and technical education students, employers in need of skilled workers, and the future competitiveness of this country. In our rapidly changing job market, Perkins programs help students become career-and-college ready and equip adult workers with the tools they need to be successful in the 21st century workforce.

CTE programs play a critical role in local workforce development and economic growth in every congressional district. Therefore, we invite you to join us in sending the following letter requesting strong funding for Perkins in FY 2019. Please contact Kerry McKittrick (Kerry.mckittrick@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Langevin's office or Michelle Rakebrand (michelle.rakebrand@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Thompson's office with any questions or to sign on.

Sincerely,

JIM LANGEVIN
Member of Congress

GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing to respectfully request strong funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. While we understand that the committee is faced with difficult choices to ensure fiscal responsibility, we urge you to consider the positive impact that Perkins Act funding has on millions of career and technical education (CTE) students across the United States, as well as its value to the business community, which relies on these programs for a skilled workforce.

While we are pleased that Perkins funding has been maintained at \$1.125 billion since FY2014, it has not kept pace with the growing demand for career and technical education, resulting in a high number of students being placed on waiting lists for CTE courses. Moreover, any reduction in Perkins funding will result in lost job opportunities for young workers and adults looking to reenter the workforce.

The House Education and Workforce Committee has long recognized the importance of strong and independent Perkins funding. In the 113th Congress, Perkins was intentionally exempted from efforts to consolidate program funding under the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. In 2015, CTE programs were explicitly left out of the Every Student Succeeds Act in recognition of the importance of direct and targeted investment in CTE. Furthermore, this Congress, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, a bill to reauthorize the Perkins Act, by a voice vote.

We are hopeful your Subcommittee will continue this bipartisan commitment to Perkins. As CTE programs evolve to meet the needs of employers in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career fields, such as engineering, information technology and healthcare, it is more important than ever that we provide robust federal support for these programs.

CTE works to ensure that students have the academic, technical, and employability skills necessary for true college and career readiness, and Perkins funding is key to their continued success. Therefore, we respectfully urge your strong support for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act in FY2019. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,