

Support Bipartisan Request for Career and Technical Education Funding in FY20

Deadline: COB Friday, March 22

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 robust funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) in the FY2020 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 in-demand career fields, including information technology, healthcare, and the skilled trades, all of which have hundreds of thousands of job openings across the country.

Congress recognized the importance of CTE when it passed H.R. 2353, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, reauthorizing the Perkins Act last July. In our rapidly changing job market, CTE 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. Therefore, we invite you to join us in sending the following letter requesting robust funding for Perkins in FY2020. Please contact Kerry McKittrick (Kerry.mckittrick@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Langevin's office or Nick Rockwell (nick.rockwell@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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We are writing to respectfully request robust funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. 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.

We are pleased that Perkins state grants were funded at \$1.27 billion in FY19, but this funding still has not kept pace with the growing demand for CTE. Adjusted for inflation, FY19 levels were \$700 million lower than they were fifteen years ago, despite the fact that more than 12 million CTE students rely on

this funding at the secondary and postsecondary level. As businesses clamor for skilled workers in growing fields like healthcare and advanced manufacturing, we should not have students placed on waiting lists for CTE courses.

The House Education and Labor Committee has long recognized the importance of strong 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, Congress recently recognized CTE as an effective workforce development strategy when it passed H.R. 2353, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, reauthorizing the Perkins Act last July. The President subsequently signed the bill into law (Public Law No.: 115-224), and states are now transitioning to meet the new federal requirements. As states develop their education plans in accordance with the new law, they will undoubtedly benefit from federal technical assistance, making it even more important that Perkins receives strong funding in FY20.

We are hopeful your Subcommittee will continue this bipartisan commitment to Perkins in FY20. As CTE programs evolve to meet the needs of employers in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields, such as skilled trades and information technology, which have hundreds of thousands of open positions across the country, we must provide strong federal support for these programs.

CTE ensures 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 FY20. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,