

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES.

Supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month.

Whereas a competitive global economy requires workers who are prepared for skilled professions;

Whereas, in the next several years, an estimated 3,000,000 new workers will be needed in infrastructure positions in the United States, including in positions for designing, building, and operating transportation, housing, utilities, and telecommunications facilities;

Whereas career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) ensures that competitive and skilled workers are ready, willing, and capable of holding jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing, allied health, construction, information technology, energy

sustainability, and many other career fields that are vital in keeping the United States competitive in the global economy;

Whereas CTE helps the United States meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement, and global competitiveness;

Whereas the United States has 30,000,000 jobs with an average income of \$55,000 per year that do not require a bachelor's degree yet increasingly require some level of postsecondary education;

Whereas over 11,800,000 students are enrolled in CTE across the country at secondary and postsecondary institutions, with CTE programs in thousands of CTE centers, comprehensive high schools, career academies, and CTE high schools, and nearly 1,000 2-year colleges;

Whereas CTE matches employability skills with workforce demand and provides relevant academic and technical coursework leading to industry-recognized credentials for secondary, postsecondary, and adult learners;

Whereas CTE affords students the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to secure careers in growing, high-demand fields;

Whereas secondary CTE is associated with a lower probability of dropping out of high school and a higher likelihood of graduating on-time;

Whereas CTE students were significantly more likely than non-CTE students to report having developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management, and critical thinking skills during high school;

Whereas, according to an American Federation of Teachers poll, 94 percent of parents approve of expanding access to CTE and other programs that prepare students for jobs;

Whereas students at schools with highly integrated rigorous academic and CTE programs are significantly more likely to meet college and career readiness benchmarks than students at schools with less integrated programs;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress affirmed the importance of CTE by passing the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Public Law 115–224), which supports program improvement in secondary and postsecondary CTE programs in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and outlying areas;

Whereas 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of State CTE leadership by Advance CTE (formerly known as the “National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium” or “NASDCTEe”); and

Whereas February 23, 2020, marks the 103d anniversary of the signing of the Act of February 23, 1917 (commonly known as the “Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act of 1917”) (39 Stat. 929, chapter 114), which was the first major Federal investment in secondary CTE and laid the foundation for the bipartisan, bicameral support for CTE that continues as of February 2020: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates February 2020 as “Career and
3 Technical Education Month” to celebrate career and
4 technical education across the United States;

1 (2) supports the goals and ideals of Career and
2 Technical Education Month;

3 (3) recognizes the importance of career and
4 technical education in preparing a well-educated and
5 skilled workforce in the United States; and

6 (4) encourages educators, guidance and career
7 development professionals, administrators, and par-
8 ents to promote career and technical education as a
9 respected option for students.