

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
Room H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor, and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education &  
Labor  
2167 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Chairwoman Murray, and Ranking Member Burr,

On behalf of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for career success, and Advance CTE, the nation's longest-standing not-for-profit that represents State Directors and leaders responsible for secondary, postsecondary and adult Career Technical Education (CTE) across all 50 states and U.S. territories, we are writing to express the needs of the CTE community that must be addressed in the final version of the Build Back Better Act.

This past summer, we applauded the House Committee on Education & Labor for its part of the Build Back Better Act. Specifically, there was a clear commitment to addressing the funding challenges that state education and workforce systems have suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. These systems have long been under-resourced and over-strapped, and the investments proposed by their version of this bill would go a long way in addressing existing funding challenges and supporting the country's longer-term economic recovery.

In the final version of the Build Back Better Act, it is imperative that workforce needs are adequately addressed in order to ensure that American workers are prepared for the jobs of today and tomorrow. In particular, we ask that Congress maintain the \$4 billion total provided for CTE programs through the Perkins CTE Act's Basic State Grant and innovation fund funding streams. These funds, designed to support CTE program development, delivery, improvement and innovation, are critical to ensuring schools and institutions have the capacity to offer high-quality CTE programs and the supports necessary to put each and every learner on a career pathway to success and further opportunity. The need for a highly skilled workforce will continue to grow, especially as Congress considers further investments in the nation's physical infrastructure and as

the needs of our economy rapidly change. Perkins V and the CTE programs that it supports are a critical way of addressing these urgent and evolving needs.

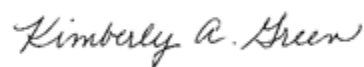
We are also supportive of other education and workforce focused investments that may be included in the final bill, such as funds for apprenticeships, adult education, postsecondary retention and completion, school construction, teacher preparation, education and industry partnerships, and the broader workforce system. These are all complementary and necessary investments to make as the country works together to revive the American economy, rebuild the nation's infrastructure, and invest in the human capital needed to make these efforts a success.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the needs of the CTE community further, please do not hesitate to contact ACTE's Manager of Government Relations, Zach Curtis ([zcurtis@acteonline.org](mailto:zcurtis@acteonline.org)) or Advance CTE's Policy Advisor, Steve Voytek ([svoytek@careertech.org](mailto:svoytek@careertech.org)).

Sincerely,



LeAnn Wilson  
Executive Director  
ACTE



Kimberly A. Green  
Executive Director  
Advance CTE