

117TH CONGRESS
2D 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 at least 15,000,000 new workers will be needed for the United States’ infrastructure in the next decade, including designing, building, and operating transportation, housing, utilities, and telecommunications;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has displaced millions of workers in the United States and fundamentally shifted entire industries within foundational aspects of the economy, creating significant demands for high-quality and efficient upskilling and reskilling opportunities to ensure a quick and equitable recovery;

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, art and design, 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 providing 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 11,000,000 students are enrolled in CTE across the country at the secondary and postsecondary levels, 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, according to an American Federation of Teachers poll, 96 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; and

Whereas February 23, 2022, marks the 105th anniversary of the signing of the Act of February 23, 1917 (39 Stat. 929, commonly known as the “Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act of 1917”), 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 2022: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the designation of February 2022
3 as “Career and Technical Education Month” to cele-
4 brate career and technical education across the
5 United States;

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

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

4 (4) encourages educators, school counselors,
5 guidance and career development professionals, ad-
6 ministrators, and parents to promote career and
7 technical education as a respected option for stu-
8 dents.