

# Support Career and Technical Education Funding in FY23

Sending Office: Honorable James R. Langevin

Sent By: Nick.Pennington@mail.house.gov

Request for Signature(s)

## Support Career and Technical Education Funding in FY23

Add your boss [HERE](#) by COB Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**FY23 Signers:** Langevin\*, Thompson\*

**FY22 Signers:** Jim Langevin\*, Glenn "GT" Thompson\*, Alma S. Adams, Ph.D., Rick W. Allen, Colin Allred, Cindy Axne, Don Bacon, James R. Baird, Troy Balderson, Andy Barr, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Lisa Blunt Rochester, Brendan F. Boyle, Anthony G. Brown, Tony Cárdenas, André Carson, Joaquin Castro, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Steve Cohen, Gerald E. Connolly, Jim Cooper, Angie Craig, Jason Crow, Danny K. Davis, Peter A. DeFazio, Suzan K. DelBene, Antonio Delgado, Mark DeSaulnier, Mike Doyle, Tom Emmer, Veronica Escobar, Scott Franklin, Jared Golden, Vicente Gonzalez, Jenniffer González-Colón, Josh Gottheimer, Sam Graves, Raúl M. Grijalva, Glenn Grothman, Brett Guthrie, Vicky Hartzler, Jahana Hayes, Jahana Hayes, Jim Himes, Jared Huffman, John Katko, William R. Keating, Ron Kind, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Conor Lamb, Rick Larsen, Debbie Lesko, Barry Loudermilk, Alan Lowenthal, Elaine G. Luria, Nicole Malliotakis, Lucy McBath, Jerry McNerney, Gwen Moore, Joseph D. Morelle, Seth Moulton, Ilhan Omar, Frank Pallone, Jr., Jimmy Panetta, Bill Pascrell, Jr., Chellie Pingree, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Linda T. Sánchez, Kurt Schrader, David Scott, Adam Smith, Jason Smith, Abigail D. Spanberger, Marilyn Strickland, Eric Swalwell, Mark Takano, Bennie G. Thompson, Dina Titus, Paul D. Tonko, Juan Vargas, Marc Veasey, Filemon Vela, Maxine Waters, Nikema Williams, Frederica S. Wilson, John Yarmuth

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 FY2023 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act*, reauthorizing the Perkins Act in July of 2018. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 FY2021. **Please add your boss on [QUILL](#) by COB Friday, April**

22<sup>nd</sup> to sign on, and feel free to contact Nick Pennington ([Nick.Pennington@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nick.Pennington@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Langevin's office or Nick Rockwell ([Nick.Rockwell@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nick.Rockwell@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Thompson's office with any questions or to sign on.

Sincerely,

JIM LANGEVIN

GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON

Member of Congress

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) 2023 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 grateful that Perkins state grants were funded at \$1.380 billion in FY22, an increase of \$45 million over the FY21 level. However, adjusted for inflation, FY22 levels remain over \$400 million below where they were fifteen years ago, despite the fact that more than 11 million CTE students rely on this funding at the secondary and postsecondary level.

The House Education and Labor Committee has long recognized the importance of strong dedicated 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. More recently, Congress recognized CTE as an effective workforce development and educational strategy when it passed H.R. 2353, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act*, reauthorizing the Perkins Act in July 2018 (Public Law No. 115-224).

In the past decades, the American economy has undergone a dramatic series of transformations, most recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Employers of all sizes are increasingly seeking individuals with specialized skills and career competencies in order to thrive in a rapidly evolving job market. Moreover, this new American economy is demanding higher levels of foundational skills from its workers, including creativity and innovation, the ability to think critically and solve complex problems, and collaborative work skills. These requirements cut across every occupation and industry sector and are now a prerequisite for worker success.

Put simply, jobs in our economy are changing and our education and training systems must keep pace if America wants to recover from the current economic devastation and remain competitive on the world stage. A commitment to high-quality CTE is key to meeting this challenge and is central to rebuilding the American economy and empowering every American worker.

We are hopeful your Subcommittee will continue this bipartisan commitment to Perkins in FY23. As CTE programs evolve to meet the needs of employers in high-wage, high-skill, or 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 FY23. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,