



April 13, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we urge you to provide robust funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins), Basic State Grant program (Title I). The Perkins Act Basic State Grant is the principal source of federal support for CTE programs and is critical in the development of academic and technical knowledge and employability skills for nearly 12 million secondary, postsecondary and adult learners.

Perkins CTE programs provide a substantial return on investment while consistently evolving to meet the needs of students and employers. These programs teach students transferable skills to ensure college and career readiness and retrain adult workers who need to adapt their skills for a changing job market. Providing a robust investment in Perkins would support nearly 12 million students across the country, the business community that relies on a qualified workforce, and the future economic competitiveness of our country.

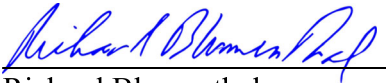
According to the most recent Job Openings and Labor Turnover (JOLTS) Survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the ratio of unemployed workers to job openings is 0.5, meaning that there are nearly two open jobs for every unemployed person. This tight labor market underscores the immense demand for skilled workers. CTE remains a critical component of the workforce pipeline for key industries that are needed to sustain long-term economic growth and recovery, such as health care, STEM, manufacturing, construction and transportation distribution and logistics. These investments are especially important to ensure that other federal investments, such as those recently made in the nation's infrastructure and advanced manufacturing capacity, can be successful.

However, learner demand for CTE programs, especially programs in in-demand sectors, has exceeded the investment in Perkins funding, and as a result, CTE institutions have been providing fewer opportunities for teacher professional development, deferring purchase of up-to-date industry standard equipment for the classroom and limiting program capacity despite this growing student demand. With current and anticipated demand growing, more resources are needed. It is vital that Congress continues to build upon the recent increases to Perkins V in order

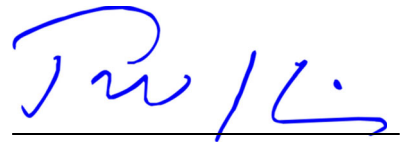
to fully support nearly 12 million learners it serves across the nation and ensure we have the talent pipeline needed to fully recover from the jobs crisis caused by the pandemic.

While we were pleased that Perkins Basic State Grants were funded at \$1.43 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, an increase of \$50 million over FY 2022, more must still be done to provide additional opportunities for students across the nation. Conservatively adjusting for inflation, the Perkins Basic State Grant program remains more than \$320 million below its levels from 20 years ago. As such, we must do more to support students, high schools, technical centers, and community colleges across the country. For the many reasons outlined here, we respectfully request that the Perkins State Grant program receive robust funding for FY24. Thank you for your continued leadership and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



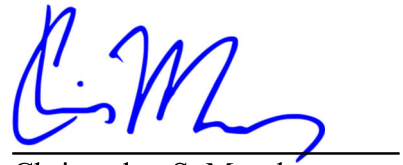
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator




Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



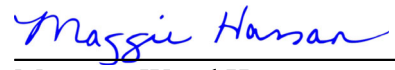
Tina Smith
United States Senator



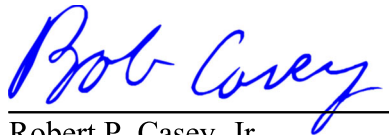
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



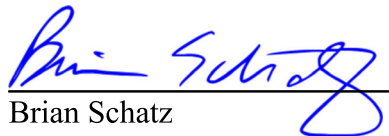
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



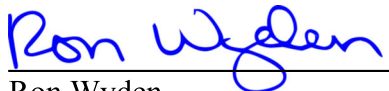
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



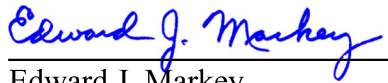
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



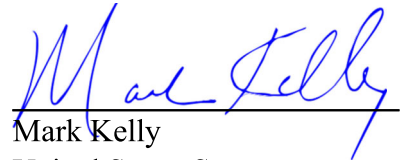
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



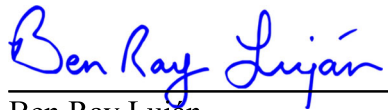
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



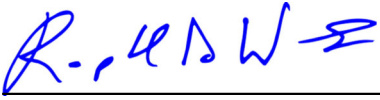
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



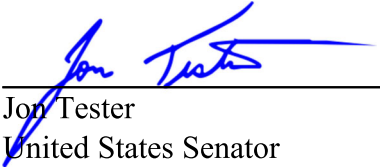
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



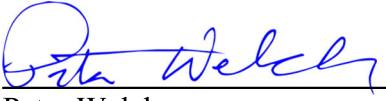
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter Welch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending across the name.

Peter Welch

United States Senator