

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 FY2026 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 providing learners and workers pathways that lead to high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields, including sectors of our economy that are currently experiencing critical workforce shortages such as the information technology, healthcare, and the skilled trades fields.

Congress recognized the importance of CTE when it passed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act reauthorizing the Perkins Act in July of 2018. Following the passage of that bill, the four-year graduation rate for high school students in CTE programs is now 96 percent - far higher than the national average of 85 percent. Research also shows that CTE has a significant impacts on students' academic performance, employability, and lifetime earnings.

As CTE continues to fill skills gaps and meet local workforce needs, these programs are building on their success and growing at a rapid rate nationwide. Today, CTE programs have waitlists filled with learners who want the opportunity to participate in these valuable programs. Therefore, we invite you to join us in sending the following letter requesting increased funding for Perkins in FY2026 to continue the valuable federal investment in these programs. Please join our letter on [QUILL](#), and feel free to contact Brian Arata (brian.arata@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Thompson's office or Allie Pearce (allie.pearce@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Bonamici's office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress