



October 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health, and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
1101 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Chairman Kingston, Ranking Member Moran and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), we are writing to urge Congress to develop and ultimately approve omnibus appropriations legislation for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 rather than passing another continuing resolution. As this appropriations process unfolds, we call on Congress to fulfill its commitment to develop a skilled and educated workforce by strengthening its investment in Career and Technical Education (CTE) via the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins).

The Perkins Act is the principal federal investment in CTE, funding grants to states to spur program improvement and help strengthen the integration of academic, career and technical education in secondary and postsecondary institutions. These programs serve over 12 million CTE students nationwide in a vast array of educational settings and exist in every state and district in the country.

Historically, the Perkins Act has demonstrated a strong return on investment by ensuring students are enrolled in CTE programs that prepare them to enter rewarding careers in high-demand, high-growth, high-wage, and high-skill occupational areas— positions that are most demanded by today's employers. As the nation's economy recovers from one of the most

traumatic economic recessions in recent memory, it is vital that these investments in our country's human capital system are made to further solidify our competitiveness in an ever more globalized economy.

Nevertheless, funding for the Perkins Act and the high-quality programs it supports has not kept pace with growing demand. Total Perkins funding has eroded by more than \$140 million since FY 2010 and over 20 states are currently receiving federal allocations at the levels they received in FY 1998. Compounding these trends, the most recent Continuing Appropriations Resolution (H.J. Res 124) resulted in a retroactive reduction of FY 2014 Perkins state allocations, impacting 38 states and forcing them to reevaluate their state budgets in the middle of the academic year. Despite the forward-funded nature of the Perkins Act, the passage of this most recent stop-gap funding measure has wasted an inordinate amount of state time and resources and we urge Congress to work towards a comprehensive omnibus appropriations package to avoid further administrative challenges and ensure an adequate investment in critical programs like Perkins.

While we recognize the difficult fiscal climate, more must be done to support our nation's high schools, technical centers and community colleges. In the Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee's draft FY 2015 appropriations bill, Perkins State Grant funding was returned to its pre-sequestration level of \$1.123 billion. Our organizations strongly encourage you to include this funding level in appropriations legislation for the remainder of FY 2015. Thank you for your continued leadership and we hope to see the restoration of regular order in the appropriations process moving forward.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Green
Executive Director, NASDCTEc



LeAnn Wilson
Executive Director, ACTE