As Congress considers reauthorization of HEA, the challenges facing our nation’s economy, most notably the skills shortage and how to ensure affordable and accessible postsecondary opportunities for every learner, must be central to these debates.

Advance CTE offers the following recommendations:

- **Reinforce That Higher Education Is Workforce Development**
  - Strengthen connections to labor market data so that education leads to high-growth, in-demand careers and responds to local, regional or state needs.
  - Provide a grant program at community and technical colleges that focuses on local, regional or state high-growth, in-demand occupations and industry sectors.

- **Eliminate Barriers to Financial Aid Program Access**
  - Affirm that all postsecondary credentials are important and valuable.
  - Expand Pell Grant eligibility to high-quality short-term programs and incarcerated individuals.
  - Support all learners, including non-traditional ones.

- **Streamline Data Collection & Ensure Cross-Systems Alignment**
  - Adopt common performance metrics across federal legislation.
  - Promote collaboration across systems.
  - Expand statewide data system capacities.
  - Require data to be disaggregated and include short- and long-term outcomes.

- **Increase Flexibility for Innovative Educational Models**
  - Support competency-based learning and value prior academic and workplace skills.
  - Expand career guidance across the full educational spectrum.
  - Support experiential learning outside of the classroom.

- **Develop and Nurture the CTE Teacher Workforce**
  - Support teacher preparation and professional development for industry experts.

To learn more, visit https://bit.ly/2THseTv.