



August 4, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairs Murray and Baldwin and Ranking Members Collins and Capito,

On behalf of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for career success, and Advance CTE, the nation's longest-standing not-for-profit that represents State Directors and leaders responsible for secondary, postsecondary and adult career and technical education (CTE) across all 50 states and U.S. territories, we applaud the Appropriations Committee for completing work on all twelve individual spending bills last month on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis. In particular, we commend you for advancing thoughtful FY24 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS-ED) appropriations legislation that recognizes the important role CTE has in supporting learners and fostering their career success within our shared economy.

We understand and recognize that this year's appropriations process has been challenging. Despite this, we greatly appreciate the \$40 million proposed increase for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act's Basic State Grant program included in this legislation. Known as "Perkins V," this foundational law is the primary source of federal investment in CTE. This additional funding will provide the nearly 13 million CTE learners across the nation with more opportunities to access high-quality CTE programming and ensure CTE programs are able to offer even more learners with the necessary skills for success in today's economy. CTE programs are constantly evolving to meet the needs of learners and employers, and this additional funding can be used in a multitude of ways to keep up with these ever-changing workforce needs. For example, this funding can be used to acquire industry-

standard equipment, provide more work-based learning opportunities, develop curricula in emerging industries, provide professional development to CTE instructors, and much more.

This proposed increased funding for Perkins V will, if enacted, serve as an important down payment toward our nation's skilled workforce needs across critical in-demand industries. This is especially important as we collectively implement recent Congressional investments made in advanced manufacturing, infrastructure, and other growing sectors of the economy. In addition, the bill's proposed funding levels for other vital education and workforce development programs will help to ensure that learners can equitably access and be successful in CTE programs, regardless of their background or circumstance. CTE programs operate within a broader education and workforce ecosystem and can only be successful with adequate investments capable of providing the supports and resources needed for success.

For these reasons we urge you and your colleagues to enact the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY24 Labor-HHS-ED appropriations legislation as soon as possible. We look forward to working with Congress as the FY24 process continues to unfold and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the impact of these proposed investments for CTE further. Should you wish to do so, please do not hesitate to reach out to ACTE's Government Relations Manager, Jimmy Koch (jkoch@acteonline.org) or Advance CTE's Policy Advisor, Steve Voytek (svoytek@careertech.org).

Sincerely,



LeAnn Curry
Executive Director
ACTE



Kate Kreamer
Executive Director
Advance CTE

CC: The Honorable Kay Granger

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

The Honorable Robert Aderholt