



June 26, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the American Association of Community Colleges and the Association of Community College Trustees, we write in appreciation of your efforts to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The Perkins Act is of utmost importance to community colleges and their students, and we strongly support bipartisan efforts to reauthorize this vital legislation.

The legislation that the committee is considering, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, includes many of the positive aspects of the House bill of the same name, which we supported. The legislation will improve CTE programs' responsiveness to industries' workforce needs and modernize the statute to reflect educational practices that have become prominent since the law was last authorized in 2006.

We submitted more detailed comments to the committee in response to the initial draft of the legislation, and are heartened to see that many of those comments have been addressed in the chairman's amendment being marked up today. We hope to continue working with the committee on our remaining issues as the process moves forward. In particular, we expect to achieve legislative language that ensures postsecondary funding will continue to be focused on the sub-baccalaureate level. We understand that changes made to the definition of "eligible institution" in the chairman's amendment were not intended to change this funding focus, though on their face they could have that effect. Other issues where we continue to have concerns include retention of continuous improvement requirements, more stringent "subsequent action" provisions than in current law, and reporting requirements that community colleges may find difficult to meet.

Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to continue working with you as we progress towards final legislation.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Bumphus
AACCC President and CEO

J. Noah Brown
ACCT President and CEO