



June 25, 2018

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the three million members of the National Education Association (NEA) and the 50 million students they serve, we write to share our opinion on reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (CTE), scheduled for markup on Tuesday.

Federal support for CTE is vitally important. It helps ensure that all students, no matter what zip code they live in, have access to high-quality CTE programs and that states have the means to strengthen those programs. For secondary students, CTE provides engaging, relevant, and hands-on learning opportunities that lead to higher graduation rates and a range of postsecondary education and career options. For postsecondary students, CTE provides preparation for careers as well as opportunities to attain degrees and other credentials.

NEA's key principles and primary recommendations to Congress for CTE reauthorization include:

- **Involving educators in planning and decision-making.** This approach strengthens collaboration among the education, business, labor, employment, and economic sectors; improves program effectiveness; and helps ensure that the needs of both students and employers are met. Including CTE educators in decision-making at many levels is further insurance that CTE students' needs are well represented.
- **Preparing educators to address the needs of all students.** Excellent CTE programs that meet students' needs require a strong pipeline of quality, credentialed, and experienced educators. Reauthorization should include appropriate training in pedagogical practices, including professional development geared to serving under-represented students.
- **Addressing skills gaps.** Education and training supported by career and technical education programs are vital to addressing gaps in workers' skills and employers' needs. Employers across the nation continue to stress the need for well-trained workers. Reauthorization should seek to align CTE programs and in-demand industries - an approach which highlights the importance of employability skills to student success.

We are pleased to see these issues addressed in the reauthorization text developed by the HELP Committee. It is our understanding that some provisions, including those related to

accountability and planning that may impact state and local funding for CTE programs, could still be at issue. We look forward to these issues being addressed and to working with members of the Committee as the process to reauthorize career and technical education continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Egan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" being more prominent than the last name "Egan".

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association