



Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned businesses, employer groups and national organizations believe that career and technical education (CTE) provides a critical investment in the American workforce. We urge you to restore funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act) back to Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 levels for FY 2012. In FY 2011, Perkins funding was slashed by \$140 million. This reduction included a complete elimination of the Tech Prep program and a substantial cut to the Perkins Basic State Grants.

The Perkins Act is the principal source of funding for CTE program improvement and one of the only federal programs that builds the capacity of high schools and postsecondary institutions to offer CTE programs that are academically rigorous and aligned to the needs of business and industry. Not only is CTE preparing individuals for a wide array of careers ranging from engineering to information technology and healthcare, it is giving them transferable skills that will lead to sustained career development and is helping to address the skills gap by providing opportunities for jobs that are actually available in today’s economy. With the cuts from FY 2011, many schools will not be able to offer cutting-edge CTE programs that prepare students for both further education and current and emerging professions within the U.S. economy.

While we understand and see the need for fiscal responsibility, cutting and eliminating this important education and job training program at a time when many businesses are recovering, rebuilding and re-employing after the economic downturn is poorly timed and harmful. The Perkins Act is essential in preparing students and adults for today’s high-wage, high-skill, high-demand career fields—and is essential to our businesses and industries.

Today, with the FY 2011 reductions, the allocations are (in real numbers) \$182 million less than FY 2002. This decrease is unacceptable. We strongly urge you to restore funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Business and industry relies on this funding for a successful, skilled workforce. Together let’s keep the country thriving in the 21st century!

Sincerely,

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