

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing to respectfully request that you include \$1.131 billion in funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. While we understand that the committee is faced with difficult choices to ensure fiscal responsibility, we urge you to avoid any reductions to Perkins, which would have adverse effects on millions of career and technical education students across the United States, as well as on the business community, which relies upon these programs for a skilled workforce.

In the Omnibus Appropriations Act passed in January 2014, Perkins was funded at \$1.125 billion, an increase of \$53 million from FY13. While we are grateful that this funding has been maintained through the current Fiscal Year, it has not kept pace with the growing demand for high-quality CTE. Any reduction to Perkins funding will equate to a decrease in job opportunities for young workers and adults looking to reenter the workforce.

The Education and Workforce Committee has long recognized the importance of strong and independent Perkins funding. Last year, CTE programs were explicitly left out of the Every Student Succeeds Act, in recognition of the importance of direct and targeted investment in CTE. In the 113th Congress, Perkins was also intentionally exempted from efforts to consolidate program funding under the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (P.L. 113-128).

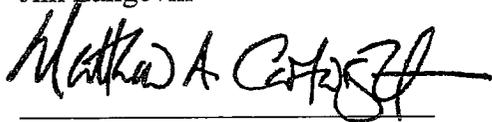
We are hopeful your Subcommittee will follow suit and continue this bipartisan commitment to Perkins. As CTE continues to evolve to address high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career fields like engineering, information technology and healthcare, it is now more important than ever that we continue this trend. Funding for Perkins provides high school students transferable skills that allow them to be “college- and career-ready,” and addresses the skills gap by providing the retraining adults need to access jobs that are available in today’s market.

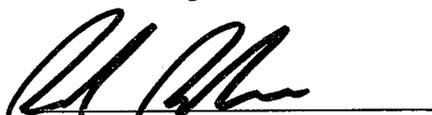
CTE works to ensure that students have the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for true career readiness—and Perkins funding is key to their continued

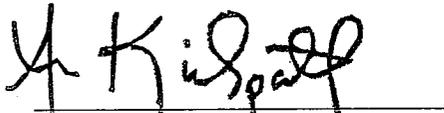
success. Therefore, we urge you to fund the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act at \$1.131 billion in FY2017.

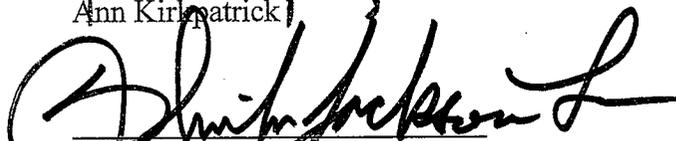
Sincerely,


Jim Langevin


Matt Cartwright

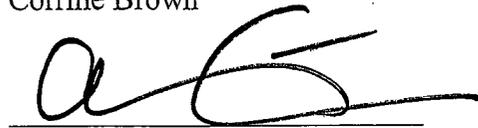

Rod Blum

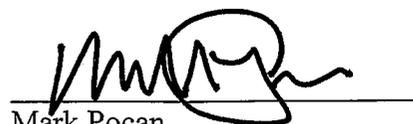

Ann Kirkpatrick

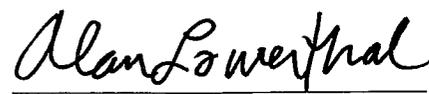

Sheila Jackson Lee


Juan Vargas


Corrine Brown


André Carson

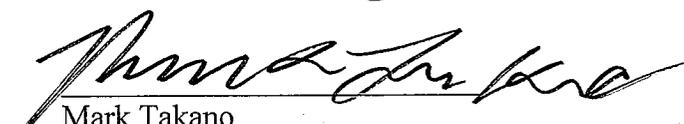

Mark Pocan


Alan S. Lowenthal


Glenn 'GT' Thompson


Joe Crowley

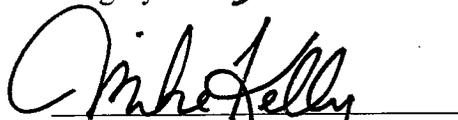

Raúl M. Grijalva


Mark Takano

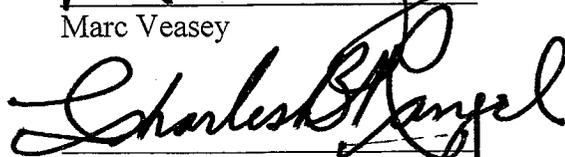

Chellie Pingree

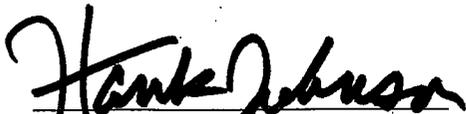

Filemon Vela


Gregory W. Meeks


Mike Kelly


Marc Veasey

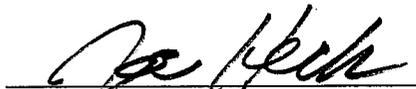

Charles B. Rangel


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.


John Yarmuth

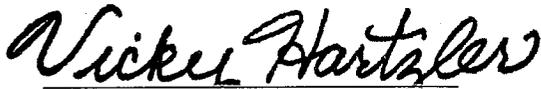

Joseph P. Kennedy III


Joe Courtney

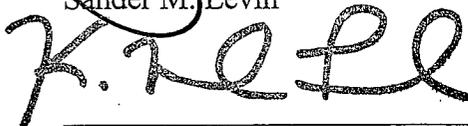

Joseph J. Heck


Albio Sires


Kathy Castor


Vicky Hartzler


Sander M. Levin


Mark Takai


Eric Swalwell


Dina Titus


Al Green


Luis V. Gutiérrez

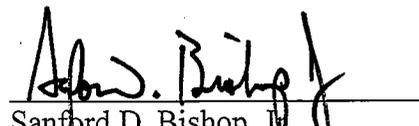

Kurt Schrader


Jan Schakowsky


Mike Thompson

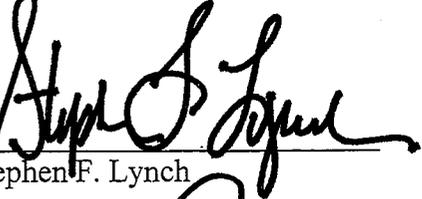

Collin C. Peterson


Adam B. Schiff

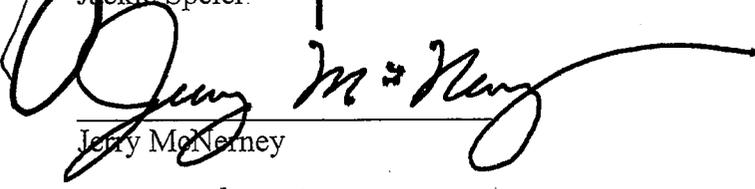

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

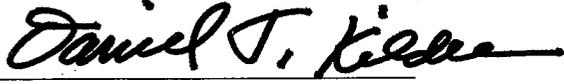

William R. Keating


Suzan K. DelBene


Stephen F. Lynch


Jackie Speier

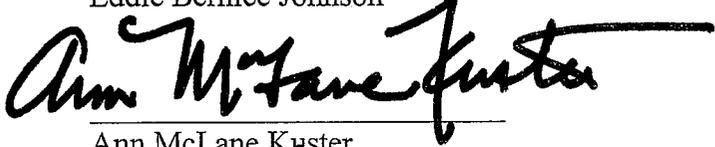

Jerry McNerney

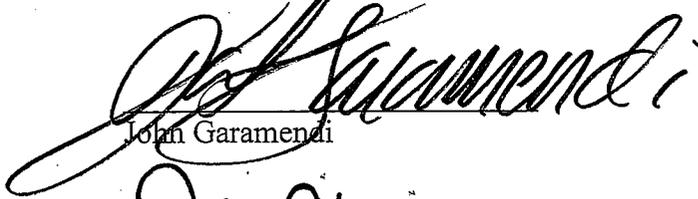

Dan Kildee

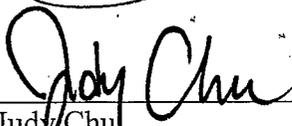

Paul Tonko


John K. Delaney


Eddie Bernice Johnson

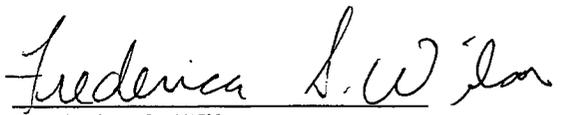

Ann McLane Kuster


John Garamendi

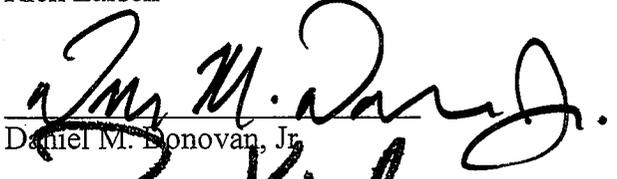

Judy Chu

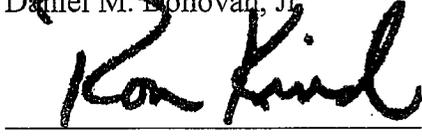

Sam Graves

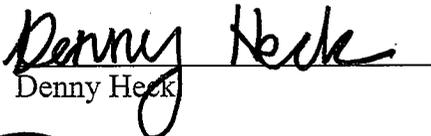

Kyrsten Sinema

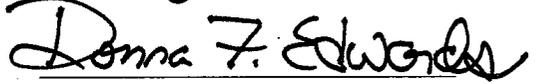

Frederica S. Wilson


Rick Larsen


Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.

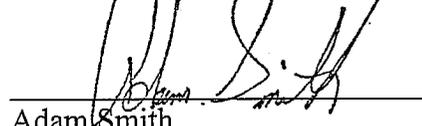

Ron Kind

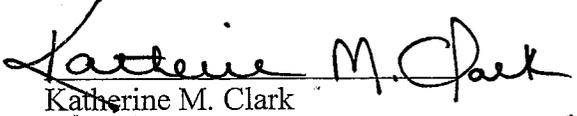

Denny Heck


Donna F. Edwards


Jared Huffman


Emanuel Cleaver II


Adam Smith


Katherine M. Clark


Yvette D. Clarke


David Scott

Pierluisi
Pedro R. Pierluisi

Lois Frankel
Lois Frankel

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Michelle Lujan Grisham

Gerald E. Connolly
Gerald E. Connolly

Grace F. Napolitano
Grace F. Napolitano

Adam Kinzinger
Adam Kinzinger

Julia Brownley
Julia Brownley

Alice L. Hastings
Alice L. Hastings

Barbara Lee
Barbara Lee

Peter Welch
Peter Welch

Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer

Keith Ellison
Keith Ellison

Brian Higgins
Brian Higgins

Gwen Moore
Gwen Moore

John Conyers
John Conyers

Linda T. Sánchez
Linda T. Sánchez

Dan Benishek M.D.
Dan Benishek M.D.

Ben Ray Lujan
Ben Ray Lujan

Cheri Bustos
Cheri Bustos

Tom MacArthur
Tom MacArthur

David B. McKinley, P.E.
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Ryan A. Costello
Ryan A. Costello

Susan Davis
Susan Davis

Diana DeGette
Diana DeGette

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas

David N. Cicilline

David N. Cicilline

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Louise M. Slaughter

Louise M. Slaughter

Rubén Hinojosa

Rubén Hinojosa

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Bill Foster

Bill Foster

Lois Capps

Lois Capps

Jim Costa

Jim Costa

Tim Walz

Tim Walz

Ami Bera

Ami Bera, M.D.

Peter A. DeFazio

Peter A. DeFazio

Robert J. Dold

Robert J. Dold

David Loebsock

David Loebsock

Bruce Poliquin

Bruce Poliquin

Donald A. Beyer

Donald A. Beyer

Mark DeSaulnier

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Terri Sewell

Terri Sewell

Richard M. Nolan

Richard M. Nolan

Suzanne Bonamici

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Bobby L. Rush

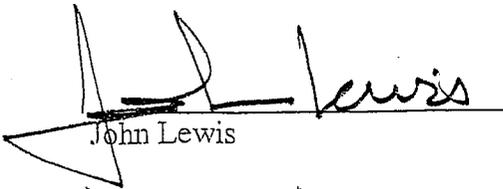
Bobby L. Rush

Tammy Duckworth

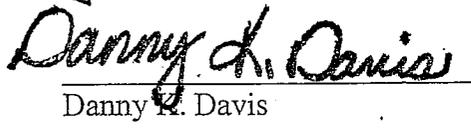
Tammy Duckworth

Cedric L. Richmond

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John Lewis


Elise M. Stefaniuk


Danny R. Davis


Chris Van Hollen