

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we urge you to make a strong investment in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) by increasing funding for the State Grant program (Title I) to \$1.3 billion. Perkins provides the principal source of federal support for program improvement and helps to strengthen the integration of academic and career and technical education (CTE) at secondary and postsecondary institutions.

Perkins CTE programs provide a substantial return on investment while consistently evolving to meet the needs of students and employers. These programs teach students transferable skills that ensure college and career readiness and retrain adult workers who need to adapt their skills for a changing job market. Providing a robust investment in Perkins would support the 11 million CTE students across the country, the business community that relies on a qualified workforce, and the future economic competitiveness of our country.

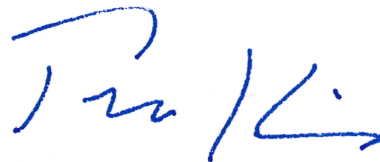
Perkins funding has not kept pace with growing demand for high-quality CTE programs, resulting in long waiting lists at CTE programs across the country. Since FY 2007, Perkins grant funding for states has declined by 13 percent and even further when adjusted for inflation. We must do more to support high schools, technical centers, and community colleges across the country. The erosion of Perkins funding has resulted in CTE institutions providing fewer opportunities for teacher professional development, deferring purchase of up-to-date industry-standard equipment for the classroom, and limiting program capacity despite growing student demand. Increasing the Perkins funding level could support an additional 1.7 million students, and finally fill the gap in services that stagnant funding has created for states and CTE institutions.

We understand and appreciate the difficult task before you. For the many reasons outlined here, we respectfully request that the Perkins State Grant program be funded at \$1.3 billion. Thank you for your continued leadership and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



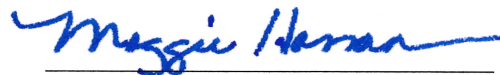
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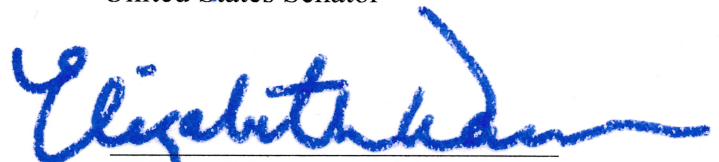
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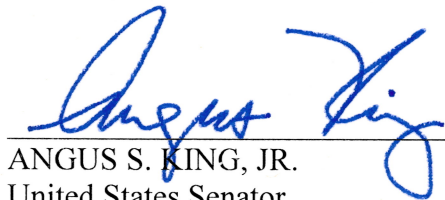
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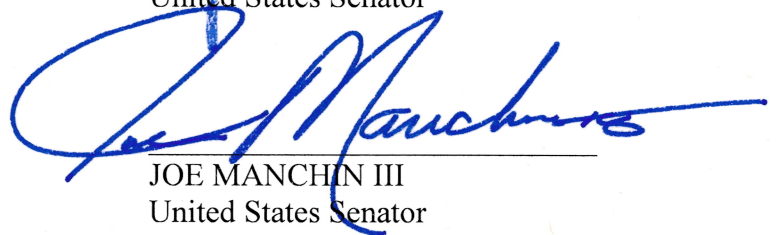
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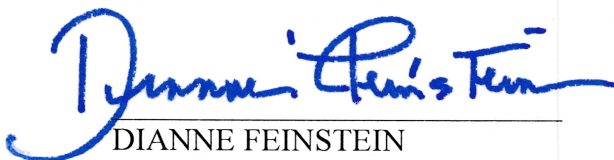
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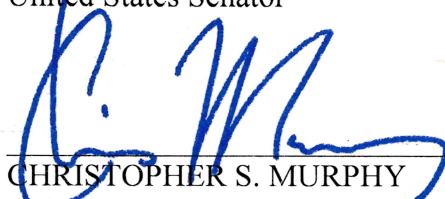
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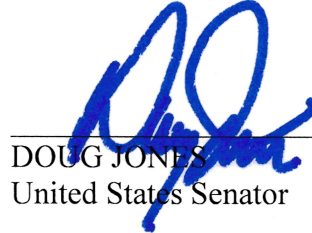
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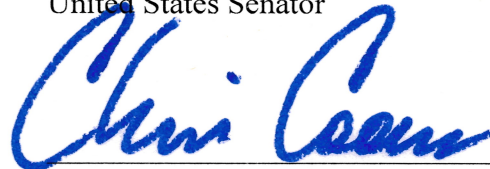
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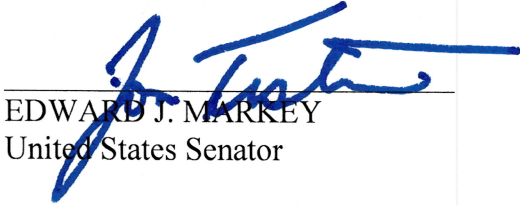
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