

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 30, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran:

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) State Grant program (Title I) is the principal source of dedicated federal funding for career and technical education (CTE) at secondary and postsecondary institutions. As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 funding levels for the forthcoming omnibus appropriations bill, we hope that you will provide a strong investment in Perkins to support educators, employers and millions of students nationwide.

Our investment in Perkins is crucial to ensuring that CTE students have the academic, technical and employable skills necessary for further education and careers. State and local recipients utilize State Grant funds to support CTE programs through activities such as developing programs of study, strengthening the integration of academics and CTE, purchasing equipment and technology for the classroom, offering career guidance and counseling services, and providing professional development and technical assistance for educators.

Perkins brings a strong return on investment by equipping students with transferable skills they need for careers in expanding fields, such as engineering, information technology, advanced manufacturing and health care. In addition, CTE programs offer training opportunities for many adult workers seeking to update their skills for a changing job market. CTE programs supported by Perkins help bridge the skills gap and ensure that the unemployed and under-employed are ready to fill the positions that are available today, while preparing for the careers of tomorrow. Moreover, an educated and highly-skilled workforce provides direct benefits to American employers through productivity and innovation.

As the foundational support for CTE program development, Perkins is essential to moving our economic recovery forward. However, funding has not kept pace with the demand for high-quality programs. Total Perkins funding to states declined by 13 percent from FY 2007 through FY 2014. While we recognize that this is a difficult budgetary climate, more must be done to support our high schools, technical centers and community colleges.

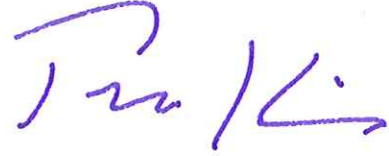
In the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee's draft FY 2015 appropriations bill, Perkins State Grant funding was returned to its pre-sequestration level of \$1.123 billion. We strongly urge you to include this funding level in the omnibus appropriations bill that will soon be considered by the Senate. It is essential that we make investing in CTE a

top priority for this fiscal year. Thank you for your continued leadership and steadfast commitment to restoring regular order in the appropriations process.

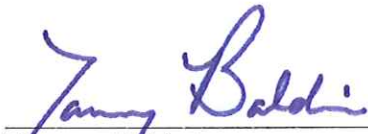
Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate



Tim Kaine
United States Senate



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate



Cory A. Booker
United States Senate



Martin Heinrich
United States Senate



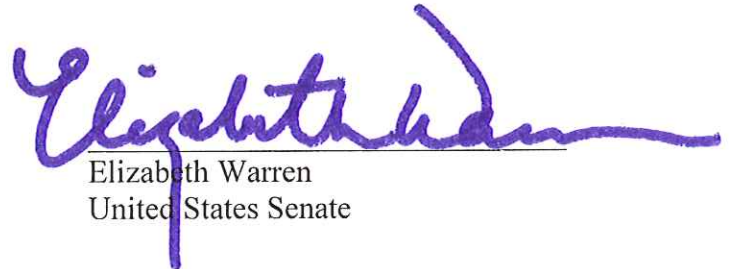
Sherrod Brown
United States Senate



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate



Jon Tester
United States Senate



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate



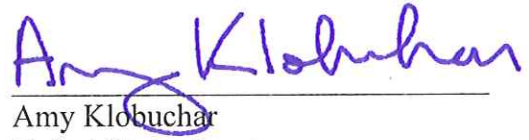
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate



Al Franken
United States Senate



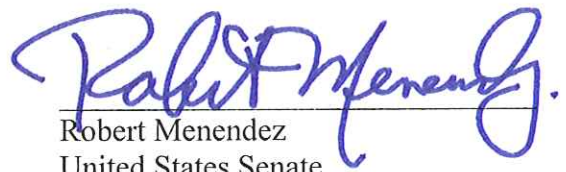
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate



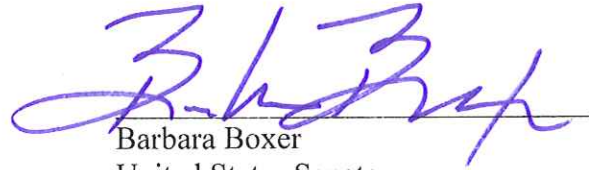
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate



Robert Menendez
United States Senate



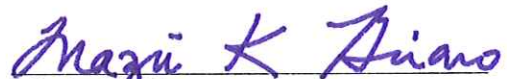
Jack Reed
United States Senate



Barbara Boxer
United States Senate



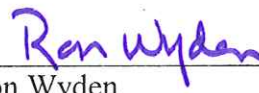
Tim Johnson
United States Senate



Mazie Hirono
United States Senate



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate



Ron Wyden
United States Senate



Carl Levin
United States Senate