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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Assembly Education Committee

FROM: Andrew Musick, Director of Policy and Research

DATE: June 12, 2014

RE: Career and Technical Education Eight-Bill Package

On behalf of the 21,000 members of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA), I would like to express our support of Assembly Bills 3334-3341, introduced by Speaker Prieto and Education Committee Chairman Diegnan. The eight-bill package focuses on supporting career and technical education by increasing focus on career readiness, providing incentives to expand career and technical education opportunities and programs, and supporting multiple pathways to career success.

NJBIA, along with the NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools has spearheaded the NJ Employer Coalition for Technical Education. NJBIA and the Coalition are focused on promoting the value of career and technical education and the career pathways it creates, as well as developing a strong pipeline of skilled and trained employees.

Our member companies tell us that they have difficulty finding candidates with the right combination of technical and employability skills, and that a true “skills gap” exists. Fortunately, a quality career and technical education provides students with the skills and training they need to be an effective employee in the workforce.

As such, the proposals in the eight bill package help ensure that more students will have access to quality career and technical education programs, as well as multiple career pathways. Ultimately, these students will have the skills needed to launch a successful career and employers will have a skilled and trained pipeline of employees to hire from.

For these reasons, NJBIA supports Assembly Bills 3334-3341 and we encourage you to vote “yes” on these bills when they come before the Assembly Education Committee on June 12, 2014. We appreciate your consideration of our position and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 609-858-9512.