



October 3, 2017

Senator Pat Toomey  
United States Senate  
248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

As you know, Pennsylvania employers are currently reporting a shortage of skilled workers to fill in-demand positions. Modernized and relevant CTE programs, designed with the input of employers and responsive to the needs identified by labor market data, are central to overcoming this skilled labor shortage. To this end, on behalf of our organizations' member companies, we ask that you urge the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP Committee) to take action on reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins CTE).

Earlier this year, your colleagues in the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, a bill that garnered support from both of our organizations. Additionally, nearly forty of your Senate colleagues have joined a dear colleague letter to the HELP Committee, urging the Committee's action on Perkins CTE. We respectfully ask that you consider joining this letter or consider your own communication to the Committee on this important issue. The letter's sign-on deadline is Friday, October 6, 2017.

We support the House passed bill and any new Perkins CTE legislation introduced in the Senate should focus on areas where improvements can be made to current law, such as:

- Align CTE programs to the needs of the state, regional and local labor markets;
- Support effective and meaningful collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions and employers;
- Increase student participation in work-based learning opportunities; and
- Promote the use of industry recognized credentials and other recognized postsecondary credentials.

Preparing the Commonwealth's workforce with the skills of tomorrow is critical to our long-term prosperity. We respectfully ask for your collaboration and support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Matt Smith.

Matt Smith  
President, Greater Pittsburgh  
Chamber of Commerce

A blue ink signature of Rob Wonderling.

Rob Wonderling  
President & CEO, The Chamber  
of Commerce for Greater  
Philadelphia

A blue ink signature of Gene Barr.

Gene Barr  
President and CEO of the  
Pennsylvania Chamber of  
Business and Industry