

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
Senate Committee on Appropriation  
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) 2016 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 restoring funding for the State Grant program (Title I) to the pre-sequestration level of \$1.123 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 12 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 received a modest increase in the omnibus appropriations bill for FY 2014 and that funding was maintained into the current fiscal year. Though we applaud the increase during a difficult budgetary climate, Perkins funding still has not kept pace with growing demand for high-quality CTE programs. We must do more to support high schools, technical centers, and community colleges across the country. The erosion of Perkins funding due to the harmful sequestration cuts 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.

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 the FY 2012 pre-sequester level of \$1.123 billion. Thank you for your continued leadership and your consideration of our request.

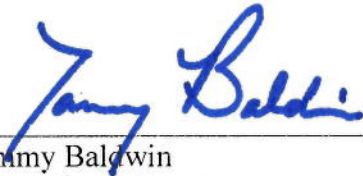


Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate

Sincerely,



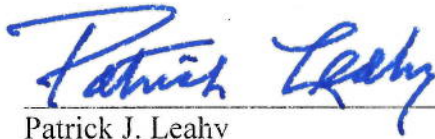
Tim Kaine  
United States Senate



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate



Al Franken  
United States Senate



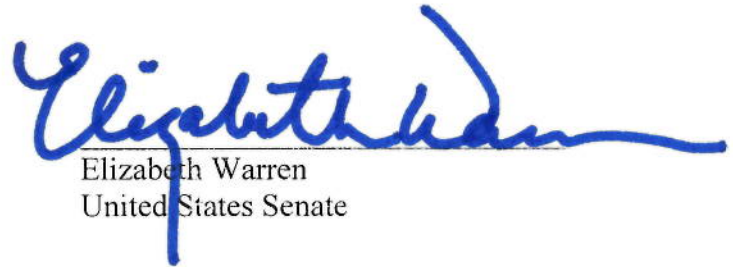
Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senate



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senate



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senate



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senate



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate



Brian Schatz  
United States Senate



Ron Wyden  
United States Senate



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senate



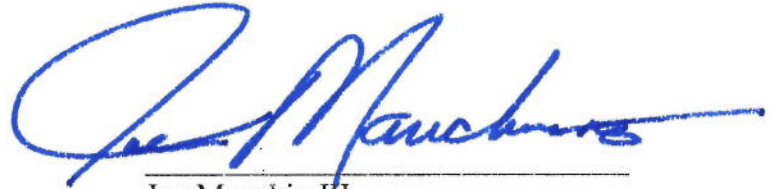
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate



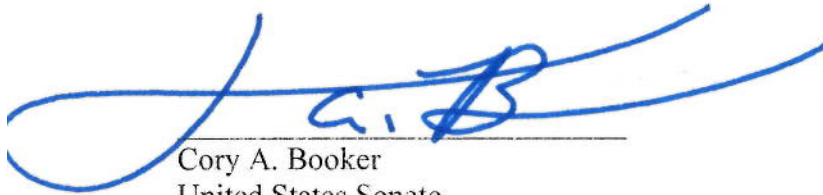
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate



Jack Reed  
United States Senate



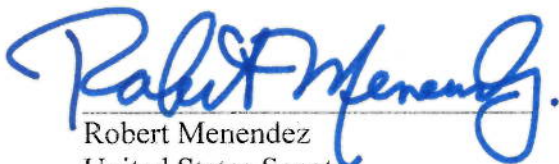
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senate



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senate



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate



Robert Menendez  
United States Senate

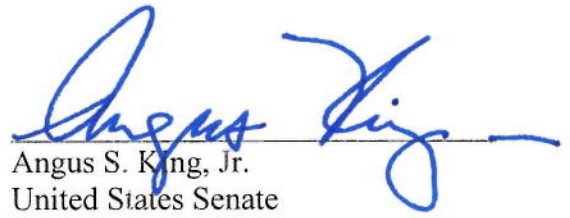


Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senate

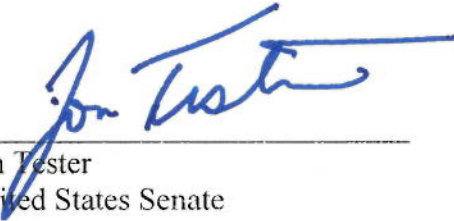




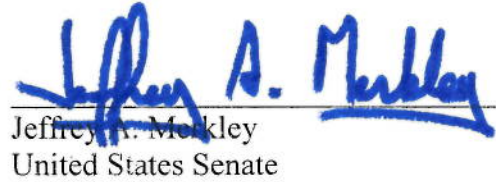
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senate



Jon Tester  
United States Senate



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senate



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senate