

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 11, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

We urge that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions take action on reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act as soon as possible during the 115th Congress. It is crucial that the Senate work in a bipartisan effort to help our nation's students acquire the skills needed to be successful in today's work environment.

Employers are reporting a shortage of skilled workers to fill in-demand positions. Modernized and relevant career and technical education (CTE) programs, designed with the input of employers and responsive to the needs identified by labor market data, are central to overcoming this skills gap.

New legislation should focus on areas where improvements can be made to current law, such as:

- Align CTE programs to the needs of the regional, state, and local labor market;
- 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.

These improvements will more effectively spend federal dollars to help our nation's students acquire the skills that they need and employers are demanding. We urge you to move forward with reauthorization of Perkins Career and Technical Education and hope to continue a bipartisan commitment to invest in our nation's students, workers and economy through the Perkins CTE program.

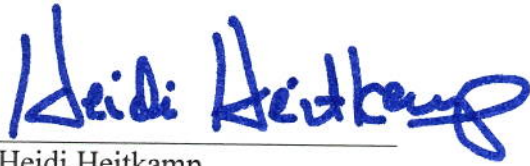
Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



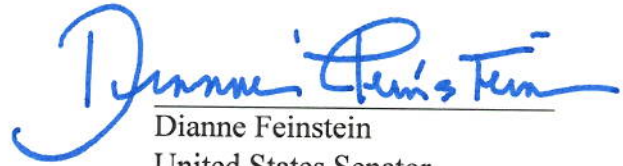
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator



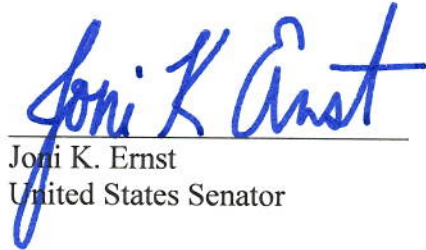
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



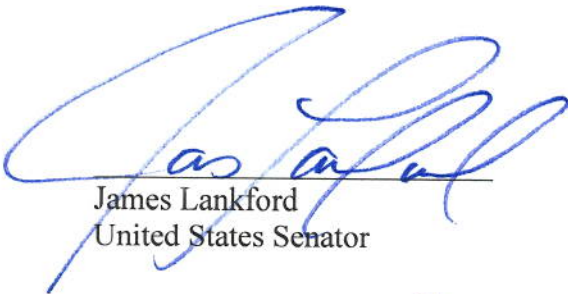
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator




Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator




Roy Blunt
United States Senator



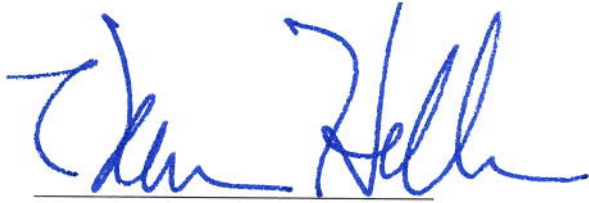
Al Franken
United States Senator




Jon Tester
United States Senator




M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Dean Heller
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator




John Thune
United States Senator



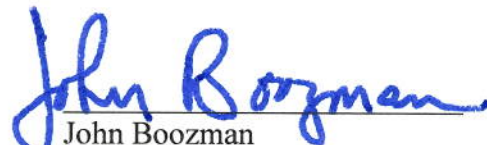
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator




Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



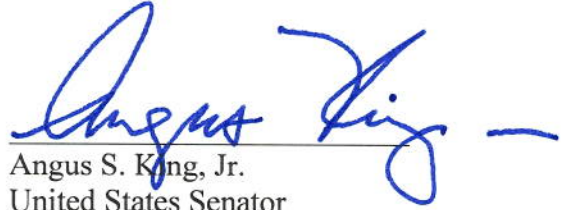
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



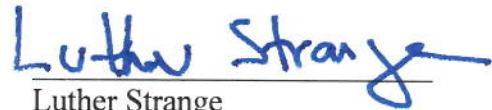
Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



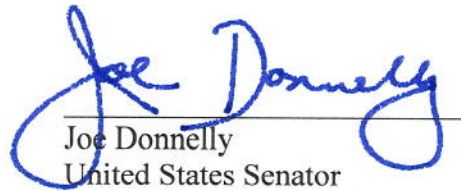
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Luther Strange
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



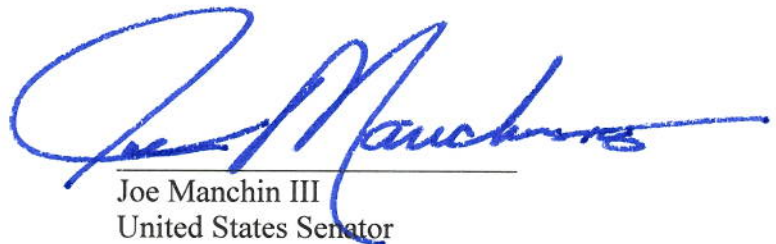
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



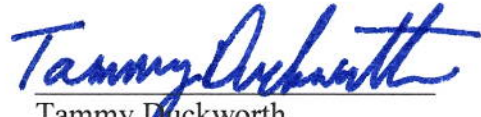
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Thad Cochran
United States Senator



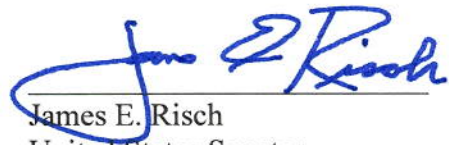
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



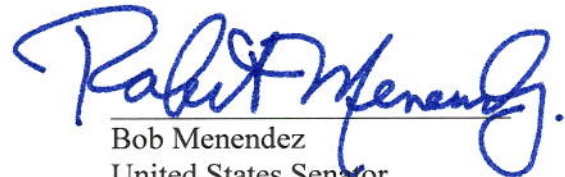
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



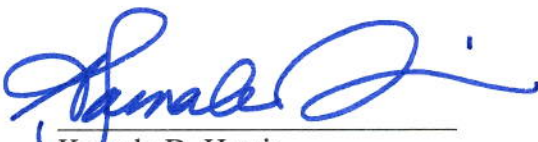
James E. Risch
United States Senator



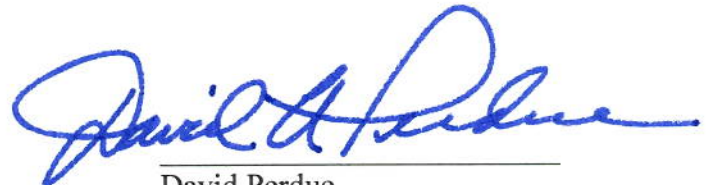
Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Bob Menendez
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



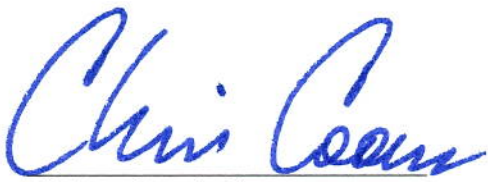
David Perdue
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator




Tom Udall
United States Senator



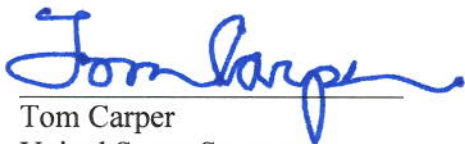
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator



Tom Carper
United States Senator