



## PARTNERSHIP for New York City

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20520

**Kathryn S. Wylde**  
President and CEO

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:

The Partnership for New York City represents the city's largest private sector employers, investors and leading entrepreneurs. We work together with government, labor and the non-profit sector to promote economic growth and job creation in New York. On behalf of Partnership members, we urge reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act) at current funding levels.

As the principal source of federal funding for state and local efforts to close the skills gap and prepare students for careers in the knowledge economy, the Perkins Act ensures that states have the resources needed to offer relevant, high-quality work-readiness programs and technical training. Without congressional action, the Perkins Act will sunset on September 30, 2014. In terms of spending priorities, there is nothing more important to the country than this investment in our young Americans' future.

It is essential that we take advantage of the opportunity we have during the reauthorization process to improve upon the program. In New York City alone, there are approximately 345,000 residents who are unemployed and looking for work, while there are 73,000 jobs that cannot be filled due to a lack of qualified applicants. As such, Perkins funding should be directed to programs that align to labor market needs in high-growth industry sectors; prioritize and incentivize strong collaboration among secondary, postsecondary institutions and employers; reward innovation; and establish accountability measures that provide common definitions and clear metrics for performance of CTE programs to improve academic outcomes, while building technical and employability skills of participants. We cannot afford to train Americans for jobs that do not exist, but must retool to anticipate the jobs of the future.

New York City has emerged as a national leader for exciting new models of employer-driven CTE. The city is allocating funding to programs that demonstrate labor market relevance and sustained employer participation. In order to bring these programs to scale and make meaningful progress on closing the skills gap, a reauthorized Perkins Act that improves existing CTE infrastructure is essential.

Thank you in advance for anything you can do to ensure the reauthorization of this critically important program.

Sincerely,

Kathryn S. Wylde

cc: Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Members  
The Honorable Charles Schumer  
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand