

June 25, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
U.S. Senate  
455 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Jamie Dimon  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Chairman

Wes Bush  
Northrop Grumman  
Corporation  
Chair, Education and  
Workforce Committee

Joshua Bolten  
President & CEO

Dear Chairman Alexander:

On behalf of the CEO members of Business Roundtable, whose companies employ more than 16 million people, I urge you to pass the bipartisan manager's amendment to reauthorize the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act)*.

By supporting career and technical education programs that provide students and adults with real pathways to meaningful careers, the *Perkins Act* is critically important to ensuring a prosperous future for Americans and for our nation.

The reauthorization of these programs comes at a critical time. It is the first time on record that the number of U.S. job openings is larger than the number of people unemployed and actively looking for work. Our CEO members know that we need more proven pathways to fill these positions – many of which do not require a traditional four-year college degree – with diverse, qualified talent.

You have the opportunity to build upon and open up these pathways by modernizing the *Perkins Act* with updates that include:

- Aligning CTE programs to the needs of the regional, state and local labor market;
- Supporting effective and meaningful collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions and employers;
- Increasing student participation in work-based learning opportunities; and
- Promoting the use of industry recognized credentials and other recognized postsecondary credentials.

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Again, we urge you to pass this bipartisan amendment to reauthorize the *Perkins Act*, and we thank you for your leadership on this important issue for our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wes" and last name "Bush" clearly distinguishable.

Wes Bush  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Chair, Education and Workforce Committee  
Business Roundtable

C: Ranking Member Patty Murray