



Office of the Vice President
Government and Regulatory Affairs

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June 21, 2018

Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of IBM, I am writing to voice our support for the bipartisan Chairman's amendment on Perkins Career and Technical Education to be voted on by the Committee on June 29th. The bipartisan Chairman's amendment builds on the strengths of H.R. 2353, The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which passed the House of Representatives on a voice vote.

There is no issue more connected to U.S. competitiveness than equipping our nation's youth with the academic and workplace skills needed for 21st century jobs. By updating and reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, Congress has an opportunity to ensure our students achieve strong academic success and are well-prepared for promising careers in the nation's fastest growing industries.

IBM and education leaders across the country have seen first-hand the impact of teaching that is truly aligned with the needs of the job market. The P-TECH program, for example, brings together the best of high-school, college and career training. What started with one school in Brooklyn, championed by IBM and education leaders, has spread to seven states, and Australia and Morocco, with more than 450 industry partners.

Reauthorizing the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act will help:

- Align CTE programs to the needs of the regional, state, 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 post-secondary credentials.

We applaud the bipartisan cooperation that you and the Ranking Member have devoted to this legislation and urge the Committee to vote for the bipartisan Chairman's amendment during next Tuesday's Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Padilla
Vice President
IBM Government and Regulatory Affairs