

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing to respectfully request strong funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. While we understand that the committee is faced with difficult choices to ensure fiscal responsibility, we urge you to consider the positive impact that Perkins-Act funding has on millions of career and technical education students across the United States as well as its value to the business community, which relies upon these programs for a skilled workforce.

In the Omnibus Appropriations Act passed in January 2014, Perkins was funded at \$1.125 billion, an increase of \$53 million from FY13. While we are grateful that this funding has been maintained through the current Fiscal Year, it has not kept pace with the growing demand for career and technical education, resulting in a high number of students being placed on waiting lists for CTE courses. Moreover, any reduction in Perkins funding will result in lost job opportunities for young workers and adults looking to reenter the workforce.

The Education and Workforce Committee has long recognized the importance of strong and independent Perkins funding. In the 113th Congress, Perkins was intentionally exempted from efforts to consolidate program funding under the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. In 2015, CTE programs were explicitly left out of the Every Student Succeeds Act in recognition of the importance of direct and targeted investment in CTE. Furthermore, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 5587, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, a bill to reauthorize the Perkins Act, by a vote of 405-5.

We are hopeful your Subcommittee will follow suit and continue this bipartisan commitment to Perkins. As CTE programs evolve to meet the needs of employers in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career fields, such as engineering, information technology and healthcare, it is more important than ever that we provide robust federal support for these programs.

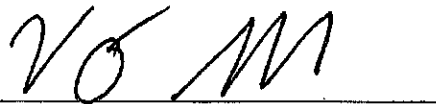
CTE works to ensure that students have the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for true career readiness—and Perkins funding is key to their continued success. Therefore, we urge you to include strong support for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act in FY2018.

Sincerely,

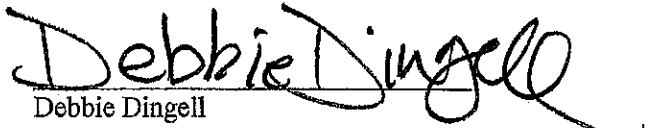

James R. Langevin


Glenn 'GT' Thompson

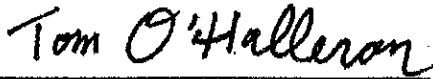

Earl Blumenauer


Vincente Gonzalez


Mark DeSaulnier


Debbie Dingell


Alan Lowenthal


Tom O'Halleran


Eric Swalwell



John Yarmuth

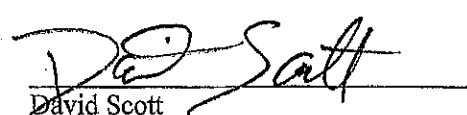

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

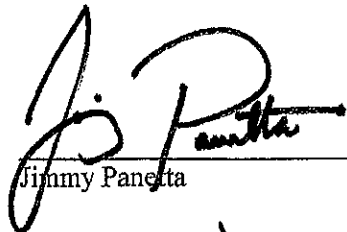

Ann McLane Kuster


Michelle Lujan Grisham


Elizabeth H. Esty


Alma S. Adams


David Scott



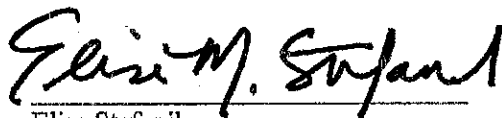
Jimmy Panetta



Val Demings



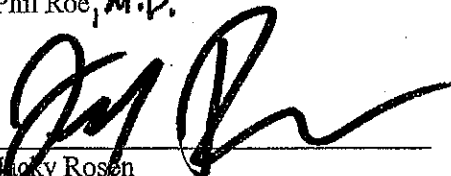
Ruben J. Kihuen



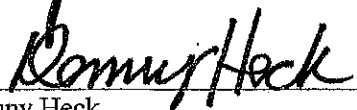
Elise Stefanik



Phil Roe, M.P.



Rocky Rosen



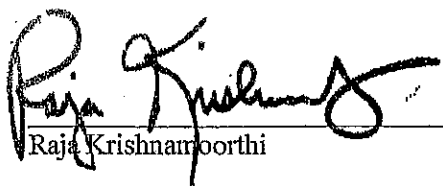
Denny Heck



Filemon Vela



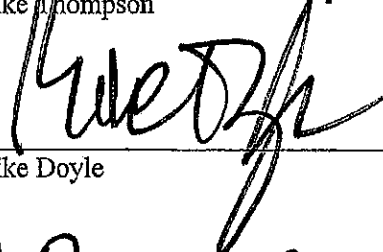
Suzanne Bonamici



Raja Krishnamoorthi



Mike Thompson



Mike Doyle



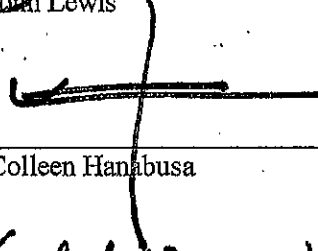
A. Donald McEachin



Ryan A. Costello



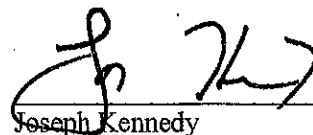
John Lewis



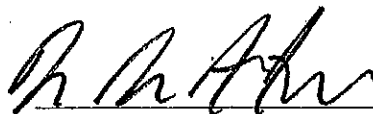
Colleen Hanabusa



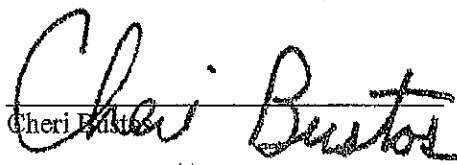
Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter




Joseph Kennedy



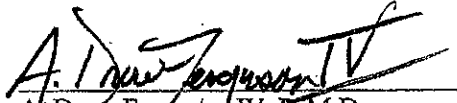
Tom MacArthur





Cheri Bustos

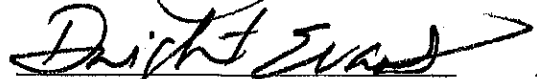

Julia Brownley


Susan W. Brooks


A. Drew Ferguson IV, D.M.D.


Joe Crowley

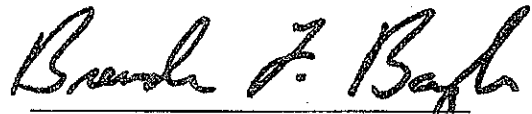

Lois Frankel



Dwight Evans

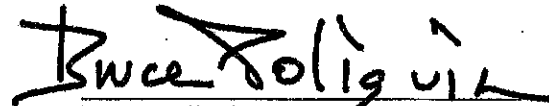

Rod Blum

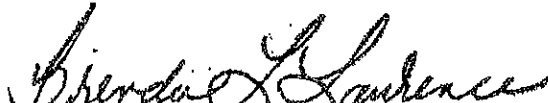

Scott Peters



Lisa Blunt Rochester



Brendan F. Boyle

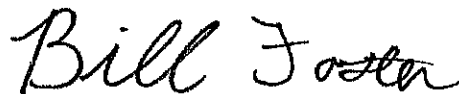

Sam Graves



Bruce Poliquin

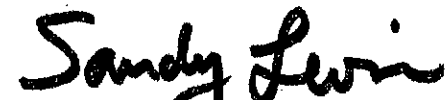

Brenda L. Lawrence

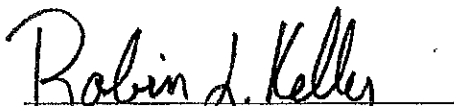

Susan A. Davis



Joaquin Castro


Bill Foster


Jim Himes


Sander Levin


Robin L. Kelly


Carlos Curbelo



Seth Moulton

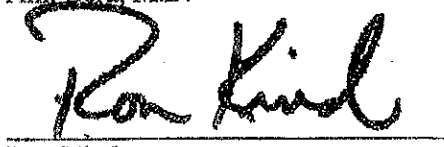

Mark Pocan



Andy Barr

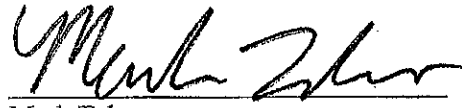

Darren Soto

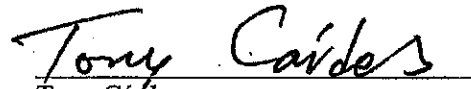

Ami Bera, M.D.



Mike Bost


Ron Kind

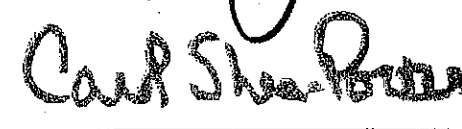

Anthony G. Brown


Mark Takano

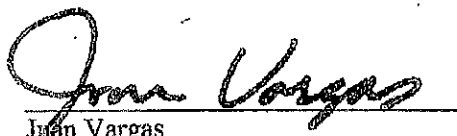

Tony Cárdenas

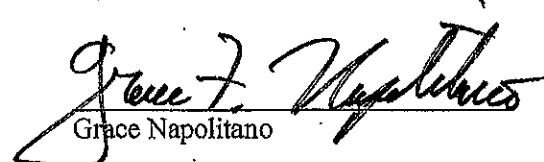

Marc Veasey

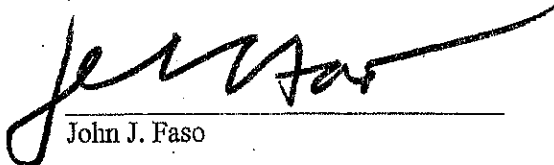

Dave Loebsack

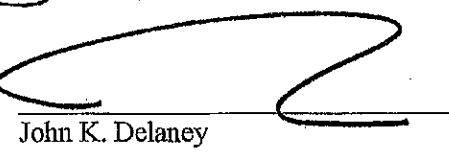

Carol Shea-Porter

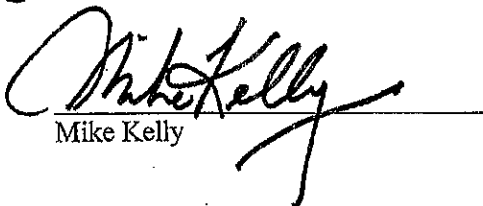

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.


Juan Vargas


Grace Napolitano


John J. Faso


John K. Delaney


Mike Kelly


Niki Tsongas

Kevin Cramer

Kevin Cramer

Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema

Jared Polis

Jared Polis

Lou Barletta

Lou Barletta

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor

Jim Costa

Jim Costa

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen

Peter A. DeFazio

Peter A. DeFazio

Andre Carson

Andre Carson

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Chellie Pingree

Chellie Pingree

Elijah F. Cummings

Elijah Cummings

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush

Terri Sewell

Terri Sewell

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan


Gregory Meeks

Gregory Meeks

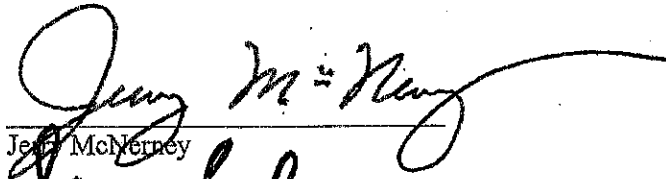
David B. McKinley

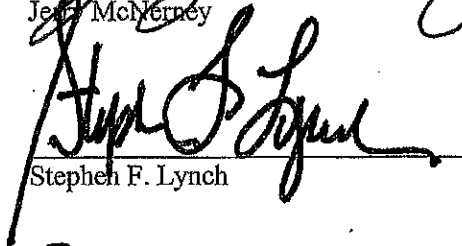
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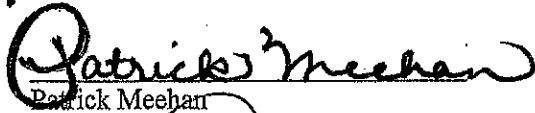

Hank Johnson

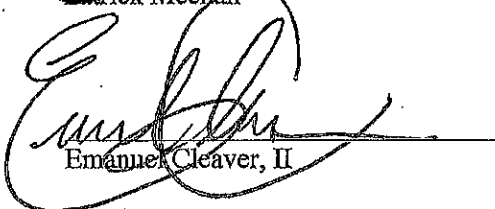

Adam Kinzinger

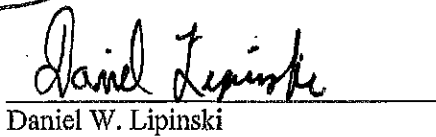

Keith Ellison

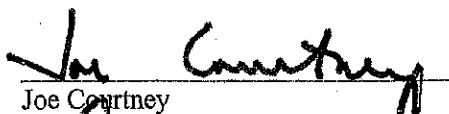

Jeff McNerney

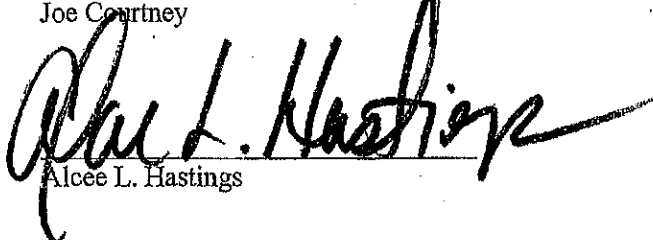

Stephen F. Lynch

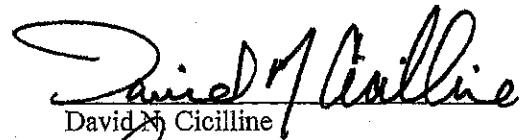

Patrick Meehan

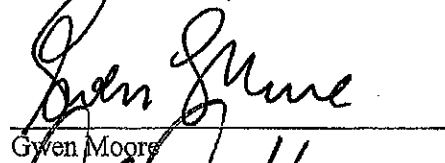

Emanuel Cleaver, II

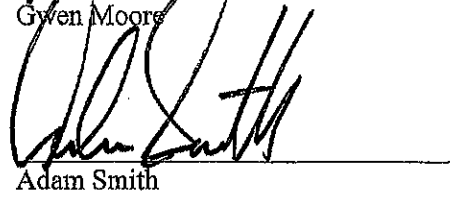

Daniel W. Lipinski

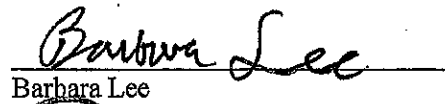

Joe Courtney

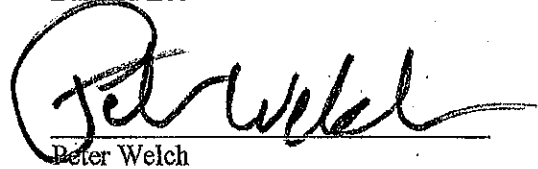

Alcee L. Hastings

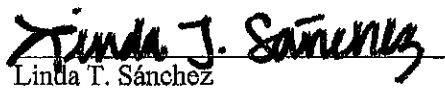

David M. Cicilline

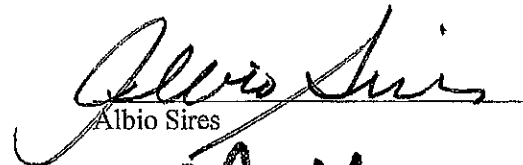

Gwen Moore

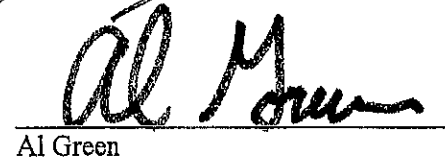

Adam Smith


Barbara Lee


Peter Welch

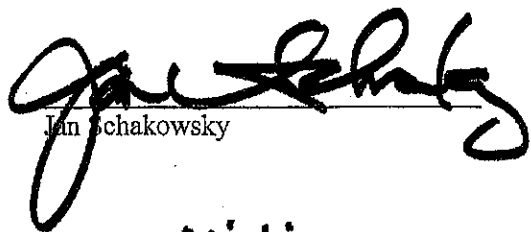

Linda T. Sánchez


Albio Sires


Al Green



William R. Keating


Richard M. Nolan


Jan Schakowsky


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan


Judy Chu

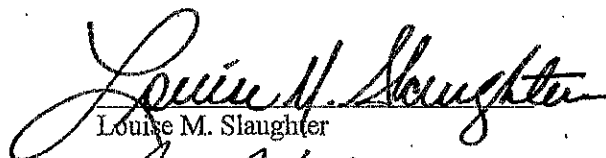

Kurt Schrader

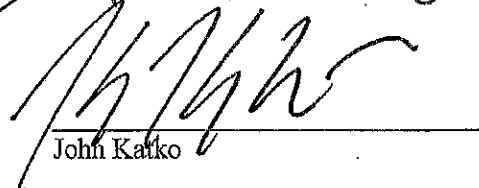

Suzan DelBene


Frederica Wilson


Paul Tonko



Jackie Speier

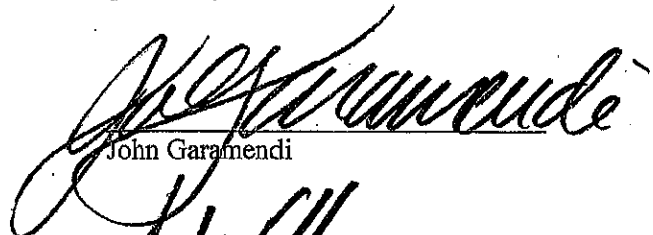

Louise M. Slaughter

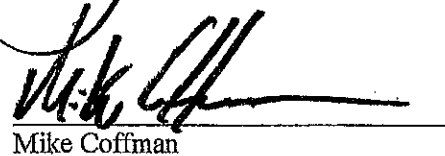

John Katko

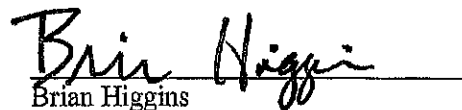

Adam B. Schiff

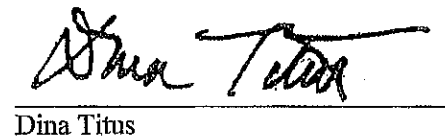

C. A. Dutch Ruppberger

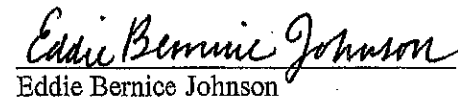

John Conyers

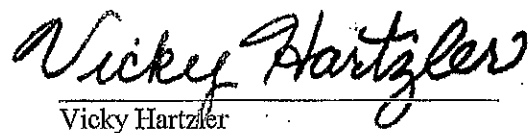

John Garamendi

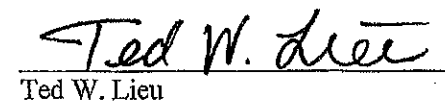

Mike Coffman


Brian Higgins


Dina Titus


Eddie Bernice Johnson


Vicky Hartzler


Ted W. Lieu

Salud Carbajal

Salud Carbajal

Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman

Will Hurd

Will Hurd