

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

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 that you include \$1.131 billion in funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 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 avoid any reductions to Perkins, which would have adverse effects on millions of career and technical education students across the United States, as well as on the business community, which relies upon these programs for a skilled workforce.

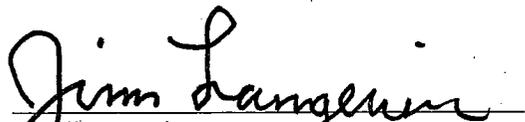
In the Omnibus Appropriations Act passed in January 2014, Perkins was funded \$1.125 billion, an increase of \$53 million from FY13. This funding has been maintained into the current fiscal year. We applaud this modest increase and urge the committee to continue making investments in workforce and career development programs. Any reduction to Perkins funding will equate to a decrease in job opportunities for young workers and adults looking to reenter the workforce. During the 113th Congress, the importance of Perkins was given bipartisan recognition by the Committee on Education and the Workforce by expressly prohibiting states from consolidating funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which was subsequently signed into law (P.L. 113-128).

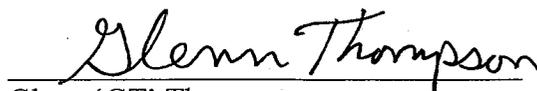
We are hopeful the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education will follow suit and continue their bipartisan commitment to Perkins. As Career & Technical Education (CTE) continues to evolve in order to ensure that workers are prepared to hold jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career fields like engineering, information technology and healthcare, it is now more important than ever that we do not undo past successes. Funding for Perkins provides high school students transferable skills that allow them to be “college- and career-ready,” and addresses the skills gap by providing the retraining adults need to access the jobs that are available in today’s market.

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

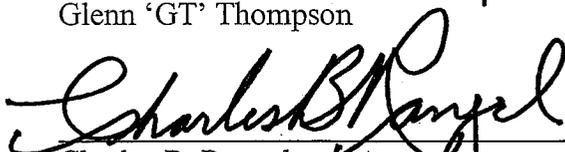
success. Therefore, we urge you to fund the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act at \$1.131 billion in FY2016.

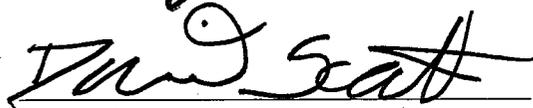
Sincerely,


Jim Langevin


Glenn 'GT' Thompson

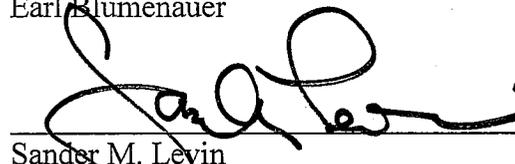

Sheila Jackson-Lee

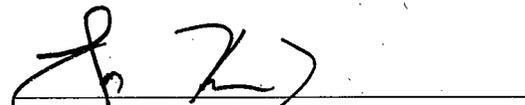

Charles B. Rangel

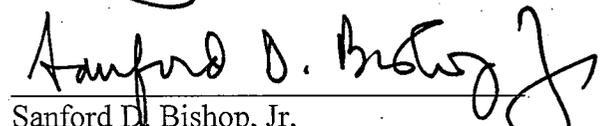

David Scott


Earl Blumenauer


Peter DeFazio

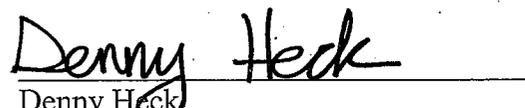

Sander M. Levin


Joseph P. Kennedy III

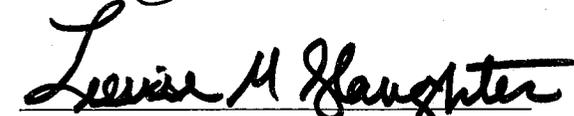

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.


Tony Cardenas

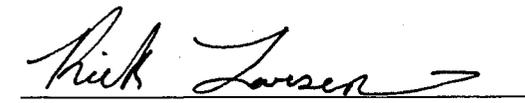

Mark Takai

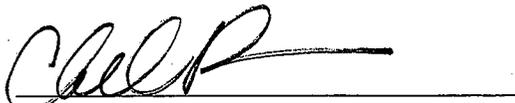

Denny Heck


John Yarmuth


Louise M. Slaughter


Suzan DelBene


Rick Larsen


Chellie Pingree

Filemon Vela

Filemon Vela

William R. Keating

William R. Keating

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Emanuel Cleaver II

Emanuel Cleaver II

Bill Foster

Bill Foster

Albio Sires

Albio Sires

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan

Mark Takano

Mark Takano

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

Jared Polis

Jared Polis

Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen

Marc Veasey

Marc Veasey

Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks

David B. McKinley, P.E.

David B. McKinley, P.E.

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan

John Garamendi

John Garamendi

Corrine Brown

Corrine Brown

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel

Peter Welch

Peter Welch

Jackie Speier

Jackie Speier

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison

Katherine M. Clark

Katherine Clark

Judy Chu

Judy Chu

Raul M. Grijalva

Raul M. Grijalva

Joe Crowley

Joe Crowley

Gerald Connolly

Gerald Connolly

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley

Adam Smith

Adam Smith

Andre Carson

Andre Carson

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman

Ron Kind

Ron Kind

Bob Dold

Bob Dold

Pedro Pierluisi

Pedro Pierluisi

Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal

Eric Swalwell

Eric Swalwell

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly

Luis Gutiérrez

Luis Gutiérrez

Dina Titus

Dina Titus

David N. Cicilline

David N. Cicilline

Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack

Pete Aguilar

Pete Aguilar

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos

Terri Sewell

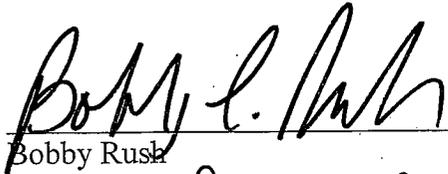
Terri Sewell

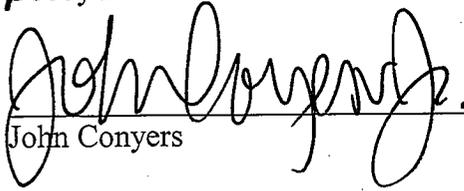
Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

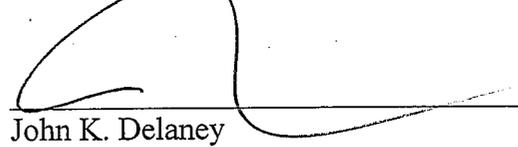
Mark DeSaulnier

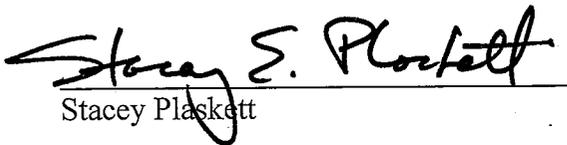
Mark DeSaulnier

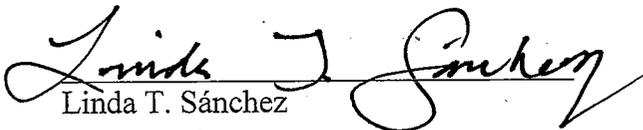

Bobby Rush


John Conyers

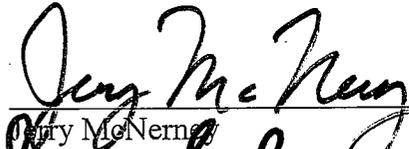

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


John K. Delaney

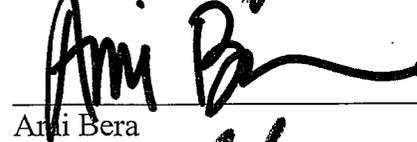

Stacey Plaskett


Linda T. Sánchez

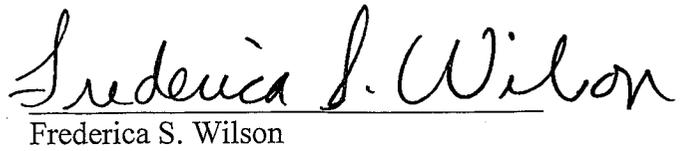

Lois Capps


Jerry McNerney

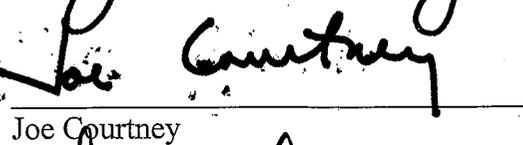

Stephen F. Lynch

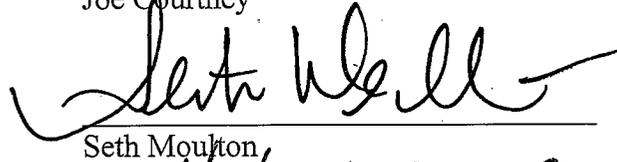

Ami Bera


Al Green


Frederica S. Wilson


Elizabeth H. Esty


Joe Courtney


Seth Moulton

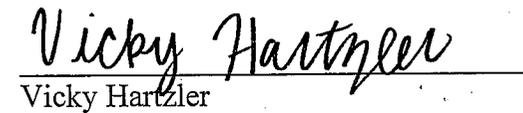

Matt Cartwright

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Tammy Duckworth


Chaka Fattah


Adam B. Schiff


Vicky Hartzler


Donna F. Edwards


Joe Heck