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July 12, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Kline, and Ranking Member Scott:

The American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society, applauds the work of the House Education and the Workforce Committee in its unanimous passage of H.R. 5587, the bipartisan Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. The ACS also encourages the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee to quickly act on the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

A well-educated workforce drives the technological developments that allow the United States to maintain its competitive edge in the global marketplace. Preparing students with the skills necessary to address rapidly evolving needs requires improvements to all levels of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. It is vital that each student attain an appropriate level of scientific and technical competence to be prepared for the challenges of participating in the 21st century economy.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are effective tools for improving student outcomes and helping to prepare both secondary and postsecondary students with the necessary academic, technical and practical skills essential to their future success.

ACS looks forward to continued collaboration with both committees as they address this legislation that is critically important to our nation's economy and global competitiveness. If ACS can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Posey at [L\\_posey@acs.org](mailto:L_posey@acs.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas M. Connelly, Jr.