



September 13, 2016

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Education and the Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Education and the Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

As president of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC): A Coalition of Community Colleges, I am writing to support H.R. 5587, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.

As community college leaders, RAMC members thank both of you for your leadership during the House Education and Workforce Committee's review and unanimous passage of H.R. 5587 as well as Representatives Glenn "G.T." Thompson (R-PA) and Katherine Clark (D-MA) for their bipartisan leadership in introducing this bill.

RAMC is a coalition of state and individual community college systems from across the country, representing over 130 colleges and 1.5 million students. We know the importance of preparing more Americans to enter the workforce with the skills they need to compete for in-demand jobs.

Because federal law has not been updated in more than a decade around career and technical education (CTE) programs, it no longer reflects the current realities and challenges facing students, the workforce at large and employers. RAMC supports H.R. 5587's steps to make many critical CTE updates, including: better accounting of students who concentrate their studies in CTE courses or programs of study; expanding dual enrollment and early college high school opportunities; strengthening the ability of individual states and locals to use federal resources in response to local economic needs and employment opportunities; and building better partnerships between CTE providers, such as community colleges and employers.

As leaders of some of our country's largest community colleges and community college systems, RAMC members are pleased by this bipartisan effort to provide skills training for in-demand jobs to students across the nation. The importance of CTE has never been greater, and we believe that this bill creates clear pathways for students eager to pursue employment in career and technical fields.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of our nation's college students and for considering our views on this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe D. May'.

Joe May,
President, RAMC
Chancellor, Dallas County Community College District
cc: Rep. Glenn "G.T." Thompson
Rep. Katherine Clark