



## JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

July 6, 2016

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman, Committee on  
Education and the Workforce  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Education and the Workforce  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Member  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Katherine Clark  
Member  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Scott, and Representatives Thompson and Clark:

Jobs for the Future (JFF) is pleased to write this letter in support of H.R. 5587, "The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act" that will be considered by the Committee on Education and the Workforce on July 7.

JFF appreciates the Committee's bipartisan efforts to update the Perkins Act, recognizing that young people and adults are facing a job market that is significantly different today than in 2006 when the Act was last reauthorized. The bill makes substantial improvements in the federal CTE law: encouraging the development of high quality programs of study; emphasizing the importance of work-based learning; encouraging the expansion of dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school opportunities; requiring that CTE programs are aligned with the skill needs of employers in in-demand industries and occupations; and better aligning CTE with innovations and programming established in the newly implemented Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

As the bill moves forward, we would like to work with you and your staff to further strengthen language in H.R. 5587 that ensures stronger alignment between secondary and postsecondary CTE programming as the new norm. Industry recognized, postsecondary credentials have become critical to individual and U.S. economic success—the Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW) at Georgetown University recently reported that 2020. We cannot expect to meet that need unless more students are able to attain the credentials required for family supporting careers.

JFF applauds your bipartisan efforts to support our nation's students and workforce and looks forward to continue to working with you as the bill continues to move through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Maria K. Flynn  
Senior Vice President