



ANTHONY BRINDISI
119th Assembly District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Subcommittee on
Volunteer Emergency Services

COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Higher Education
Aging
Education
Veterans' Affairs
Transportation

July 5, 2016

The Hon. John Kline, Chair
House Education and the Workforce Committee
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2302

Dear Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Scott and Committee Members:

We are writing to you in strong support of H.R.5587, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act for the 21st Century sponsored by Representatives G.T. Thompson and Katherine Clark. We believe this legislation is crucial to giving hundreds of thousands of Americans the training they need to fill vacancies in high-tech manufacturing.

For the past several years, we have been working here in New York to increase opportunities for students to experience high quality CTE programs. In January, 2015, the New York State Board of Regents approved multiple pathways to graduation, including the creation of a CTE pathway. CTE is proving to be an effective way for students to gain necessary academic, technical and workforce skills that high tech employers require for successful entry into the workforce, and that institutions of higher learning expect for technical students. While this curriculum will do a great deal to help train workers for much in-demand positions, reauthorizing the Perkins Act through the passage of H.R.5587 will do even more.

Passing H.R. 5587 will streamline and improve the CTE pathway New York and other states now offer. It will build upon past successes, and help both workers and employers by helping to align CTE programs to the needs of the local, regional, and state labor markets; support effective and meaningful partnerships between secondary and postsecondary institutions and employers; increase student participation in internships and work-based learning opportunities; and promote the use of industry recognized and other recognized post-secondary credentials.

We believe reauthorizing the Perkins Act will be an excellent use of federal dollars to better prepare students to get the skills they need to fill jobs that will provide them with a successful career. We urge you and your colleagues on the House Education and the Workforce Committee to move forward with the passage of H.R. 5587, recognizing the broad coalition of support for it from business and industry, education, and elected officials at all levels of government. If you have any questions on how CTE is working in New York, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nolan
Chair, Assembly Education Committee

Anthony Brindisi
Member, Assembly Education Committee