



May 16, 2017

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of state education chiefs across the country, I am writing in support of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce approving H.R. 2353, the "Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act." State education leaders applaud the Committee and the bill's lead sponsors, Representatives Thompson and Krishnamoorthi, for their bipartisanship in support of high-quality career and technical education programs.

Ensuring career readiness for all students is a top priority for states. We are pleased that H.R. 2353 recognizes that state and local educators are best situated to develop and implement effective education strategies to promote career readiness. By promoting flexibility in state and local uses of funds and streamlining the application process for receiving federal funding, the legislation will allow state and local leaders to align federal, state, and local workforce programs to deliver world-class career educational opportunities for students. The primary area of improvement necessary in this legislation is in the definition of secondary CTE concentrator. We hope to work with you and the sponsors of the bill through the legislative process to further modify this definition and its application to promote effective and targeted supports for all students.

We commend the Committee for taking bipartisan action to strengthen the federal-state partnership to promote career readiness and look forward to coordinating on successful reauthorization the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Minnich", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Chris Minnich
Executive Director