

July 6, 2016

Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of Toyota and our 35,000 U.S. employees, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 5587, *The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, sponsored by Reps. G.T. Thompson and Katherine Clark. Toyota urges you to pass this important legislation.

As my colleague, Jason Bates, stated in his testimony before your committee a few weeks ago, employers like Toyota are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers. Both on the manufacturing shop floor and at our dealerships, critical positions are going unfilled. As a major U.S. employer with over 50 partnerships with community colleges and other schools across the country, we know more can be done to help educational institutions better prepare young people for today's jobs. A modernized career and technical education (CTE) system, designed with input from employers and responsive to the needs identified by labor market data, is central to accomplishing that task.

The legislation focuses on areas where improvements can be made to current law, building upon its past successes and enhancing aspects of current law. Specifically, H.R. 5587 will help:

- align CTE programs to the needs of the regional, state, and local labor market;
- support effective and meaningful collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions and employers;
- increase student participation in work-based learning opportunities; and
- promote the use of industry recognized credentials and other recognized post-secondary credentials.

I urge you to move forward with H.R. 5587 and applaud the ongoing, bipartisan commitment to invest in our nation's students, workers, and economy through the Perkins CTE program.

Sincerely,



Chris Nielsen
Senior Vice President – Product Support