



Association for Career and Technical Education
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May 30, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Member
Subcommittee on Employment and
Workplace Safety
U.S. Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Employment and
Workplace Safety
U.S. Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), representing America's teachers, administrators and counselors in the field of career and technical education (CTE), I write to express our support for passage of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2013*.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill makes great strides in moving the workforce training system into the 2014 economy. We are very pleased with the bill's emphasis on career pathways and training programs leading to recognized credentials. In today's economy, individuals must be able to easily promote their skills to employers across an industry, and credentials provide essential signaling power in the job market, as well as connections to higher levels of education.

We are also glad to see the continued representation of education providers on the local workforce boards, the allowance for direct contracting between education providers and WIBs for in-demand training programs, and the elimination of the "sequence of services" provision to speed up access to training services. These provisions will help to ensure strong collaboration between the workforce training system and education that will result in more efficient and effective training opportunities. Streamlining and aligning reporting requirements and accountability measures will also aid in creating a seamless training system. Additionally, we sincerely appreciate the efforts made in the bill to address infrastructure funding concerns raised by our members.

Thank you for the years of work you have spent on revamping the workforce system for today's workers and the economy. We realize that much time and energy has been devoted to the reauthorization process and our members appreciate all of your efforts.

ACTE looks forward to working with you as the bill moves through Congress and to the President's desk, and then to playing an active role during its implementation in order to ensure CTE programs are true partners in the workforce system. Please do not hesitate to contact me (sdewitt@acteonline.org) or Brendan Desetti (bdesetti@acteonline.org), ACTE's Legislative Liaison, should you have any questions about our position or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen DeWitt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen DeWitt
Deputy Executive Director