October 9, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Senate HELP Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Senate HELP Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:

On behalf of HR Policy Association, I am writing to express support for reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act) and to encourage both chambers to take action to reauthorize the legislation this session of Congress.

HR Policy Association is the lead organization representing chief human resource officers of large employers. The Association consists of more than 350 of the largest corporations doing business in the United States and globally, and these employers are represented in the organization by their most senior human resource executives. Collectively, these companies employ more than ten million employees in the United States, nearly nine percent of the private sector workforce, and 20 million employees worldwide. They have a combined market capitalization of more than $7 trillion. These senior corporate officers participate in the Association because of their passionate interest in the direction of human resource policy. Their objective is to use the combined power of the membership to act as a positive influence to improve public policy, the HR marketplace, and the human resource profession.

The Association’s members are greatly concerned about the number of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses available and the growing need to find skilled workers. Throughout our membership, companies are greatly concerned about where they are going to find enough workers to fill the shortages that are developing with the baby boom retirements. These positions, many of which are highly compensated, don’t require a four year degree and offer tremendous career opportunities for those who cannot or choose not to complete a four year degree. Yet many young people are not made aware of these opportunities or given the skills needed to qualify for these positions because of the elimination of CTE programs within the schools.
As you work to reauthorize the Perkins Act, we would encourage you to make CTE programs academically rigorous and closely linked with the skill needs of the employers who will be hiring the graduates of these programs. We believe this can be done by focusing in three areas:

- Aligning curriculum to labor market needs in high-growth industry sectors.
- Improving CTE programs with strong collaborations among secondary and postsecondary institutions.
- Incorporating workplace experience for students through internships, apprenticeships and mentorships with local employers, and experiential teaching methods such as work-based learning and project based learning.

The Perkins Act is essential in preparing students and adults for today’s high-wage, high-skill, high-demand career fields – and is also essential to our businesses and industries. HR Policy Association strongly urges you to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and to follow the above principles to better prepare students for highly skilled jobs available in today’s economy.

Sincerely,

Jaime Fall
Vice President Workforce and Talent Development Policy
October 9, 2013

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
House Education and Workforce Committee  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
House Education and Workforce Committee  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of HR Policy Association, I am writing to express support for reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act) and to encourage both the chambers to reauthorize the legislation this session of Congress.

HR Policy Association is the lead organization representing chief human resource officers of large employers. The Association consists of more than 350 of the largest corporations doing business in the United States and globally, and these employers are represented in the organization by their most senior human resource executives. Collectively, these companies employ more than ten million employees in the United States, nearly nine percent of the private sector workforce, and 20 million employees worldwide. They have a combined market capitalization of more than $7 trillion. These senior corporate officers participate in the Association because of their passionate interest in the direction of human resource policy. Their objective is to use the combined power of the membership to act as a positive influence to improve public policy, the HR marketplace, and the human resource profession.

The Association’s members are greatly concerned about the number of CTE courses available and the growing need to find skilled workers. Throughout our membership, companies are greatly concerned about where they are going to find enough workers to fill the shortages that are developing with the baby boom retirements. These positions, many of which are highly compensated, don’t require a four year degree and offer tremendous career opportunities for those who cannot or choose not to complete a four year degree. Yet many young people are not made aware of these opportunities or given the skills needed to qualify for these positions because of the elimination of CTE programs within the schools.
As you work to reauthorize the Perkins Act, we would like you to encourage you to strive to make CTE programs academically rigorous and closely linked with the skill needs of the employers who will be hiring the graduates of these programs. We believe this can be done by focusing in three areas:

- Aligning curriculum to labor market needs in high-growth industry sectors.
- Improving CTE programs with strong collaborations among secondary and postsecondary institutions.
- Incorporating workplace experience for students through internships, apprenticeships and mentorships with local employers, and experiential teaching methods such as work-based learning classes and project-based learning.

The Perkins Act is essential in preparing students and adults for today’s high-wage, high-skill, high-demand career fields – and is essential to our businesses and industries. HR Policy Association strongly urges you to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and to follow the above principles to better prepare students for highly skilled jobs available in today’s economy.

Sincerely,

Jaime Fall

Vice President Workforce and Talent Development Policy