



May 13, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for career success, and Advance CTE, the nation's longest-standing not-for-profit that represents State Directors and leaders responsible for secondary, postsecondary and adult Career Technical Education (CTE) across all 50 states and U.S. territories, we write in response to the release of H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act.

First, we want to thank you for including urgently needed flexibility related to spending and carryover of funds under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act). As school districts and postsecondary institutions across the country are grappling with ending the school year in a remote environment, these waivers will allow for CTE funds to be allocated in the most efficient and effective manner over the next few months—when and where they are needed most.

However, we are disappointed that specific funding for CTE programs was not included in the bill. While we appreciate the Education Stabilization Fund that the bill would create, it is essential that a portion of the funding be specifically dedicated to CTE, as it was in H.R. 6646/S. 3659, the Relaunching America's Workforce Act (RAWA). With the inevitable restructuring of the American economy as we begin to emerge from the highest unemployment rates since the Great Depression, we anticipate an unprecedented demand for CTE from workers seeking to re-skill and up-skill to meet new labor market challenges. These workers are those who participate in CTE, which already has waiting lists for programs like health care, nursing and advanced manufacturing. Dedicated resources are needed to address the looming demand.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed gaping shortages in our workforce, particularly in healthcare professions, one of the fastest-growing CTE fields. The importance of the American advanced manufacturing industry, particularly for things like personal protective equipment, ventilators, testing kits, and more has also been illuminated. Again,

these are all industries that derive their workforce from CTE programs. CTE needs dedicated funding in HEROS, and we urge you to add \$1 billion in funding for CTE programs through the Perkins Act to the bill as it moves forward.

Thank you for your support of CTE and for your consideration of these recommendations. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Meredith Hills, Advance CTE's policy associate, at [mhills@careertech.org](mailto:mhills@careertech.org), or Mike Matthews, ACTE's government relations manager, at [mmatthews@acteonline.org](mailto:mmatthews@acteonline.org).

Sincerely,



LeAnn Wilson  
Executive Director  
ACTE



Kimberly A. Green  
Executive Director  
Advance CTE

CC: The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Tom Cole