



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Commissioner of Education
President of the University of the State of New York
89 Washington Avenue, Room 111
Albany, New York 12234

E-mail: commissioner@nysed.gov
Twitter: @NYSEDNews
Tel: (518) 474-5844
Fax: (518) 473-4909

July 6, 2016

Dear Members of Congress:

This letter is to express full and unreserved support for H.R. 5587, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act sponsored by Representatives G.T Thompson and Katherine Clark. The legislation seeks to build upon past successes of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act, which will help to better serve students, future workers and employers. HR 5587 will help:

- Align secondary and postsecondary career and technical education (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.

As we have seen in New York State, career and technical education is an effective strategy for improving student educational achievement and helps to prepare both secondary and postsecondary students with the academic, technical, and employability skills required for successful entry into the workforce. The State Education Department administers both secondary and post-secondary career and technical education programs involving students throughout the state. These students represent continued economic prosperity by ensuring that it is possible for interested students to obtain the academic and technical skills necessary for entry and success in the workforce.

By coordinating with the business and industry needs of the various regions of New York State, it will be possible to utilize federal funds more effectively to ensure that not only can students receive needed career skills, but they will be able to utilize their skills in their home regions, thus helping to stabilize local and regional economies and communities.

Again, we urge passage and implementation of H.R. 5587, and applaud this and other on-going efforts to support educational options and success of all of New York's students.

Sincerely,

MaryEllen Elia
Commissioner