



June 26, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor &  
Pensions Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

We, the businesses and organizations representing the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration industry (HVACR), write to urge the Committee to support efforts to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Updating and reauthorizing this program is vital to ensuring today's workforce is receiving quality career and technical education (CTE), and can be given the skill sets to match the many positions within the HVACR and other manufacturing fields which continue to go unfilled.

The HVACR industry has a considerable shortage of skilled workers, and the problem is accelerating due to constraints within the training pipeline. Skilled labor is vital to promulgate proper installation and maintenance of cutting-edge energy efficient equipment. The HVACR Alliance supports policies to prioritize technical education support, especially in high schools, that highlight the benefits of employment careers in the skilled trades while promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. Continued and expanded support will yield long-term benefits to the HVACR industry and the millions of customers our members serve.

As competition for high-skilled labor increases and as the U.S. economy reaches full employment, every effort must be made to close the skills gaps that our and other industries face. The House of Representatives unanimously passed a version of a Perkins CTE reauthorization in 2017. It is time for the Senate to follow suit and help prepare Americans for career opportunities in a growing economy.

The HVACR industry urges the Committee to support bipartisan legislation which would help to modernize CTE programs and ensure manufacturers, wholesalers, and contractors are able to access the high-quality workforce needed to compete in a growing economy.