



IBM
600 14th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

July 7, 2016

Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott
House Education and the Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of IBM, I urge you to vote for the bipartisan H.R. 5587, The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, sponsored by Representatives G.T. Thompson and Katherine Clark.

This legislation reminds all of us that preparing America's students with the skills to succeed in promising, high-wage careers is a priority that transcends partisan politics. There is no issue more connected to U.S. competitiveness than equipping our nation's youth with the academic and workplace skills needed for 21st century jobs. By updating and reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, Congress has an opportunity to ensure our students achieve strong academic and career preparation in the nation's fastest growing industries.

Our country needs to make innovative educational programs the rule, not the exception. IBM and education leaders across the country have seen first-hand the impact of teaching that is truly aligned with the needs of the job market. The P-TECH program, for example, brings together the best of high-school, college and career training. What started with one school in Brooklyn, championed by IBM and education leaders, has spread to six states and Australia with more than 250 industry partners.

H.R. 5587 will help:

- Align CTE programs to the needs of the regional, state, and local labor markets;
- 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.

We urge you to vote for H.R. 5587 and applaud the ongoing, bipartisan commitment to invest in our nation's students, workers, and economy through the Perkins CTE program.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Padilla
Vice President
IBM Government and Regulatory Affairs