



July 6, 2016

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Education and the Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Education and the Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

As president of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC), a coalition of community colleges, I am writing to express RAMC's support of H.R. 5587, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. RAMC is a coalition of State and individual community college systems from across the country representing over 130 colleges and 1.5 million students. We know the importance of preparing more Americans to enter the workforce with the skills they need to compete for in-demand jobs.

Because Federal law has not been updated in more than a decade around career and technical education (CTE) programs, it no longer reflects the current realities and challenges facing students, the workforce at large and employers. RAMC especially thanks Representatives Glenn "G.T." Thompson (R-PA) and Katherine Clark (D-MA) for their bipartisan leadership in introducing this bill.

RAMC supports H.R. 5587's steps to make many critical CTE updates, including: better accounting of students who concentrate their studies in CTE courses or programs of study; expanding dual enrollment and early college high school opportunities; strengthening the ability of individual States and locals to use Federal resources in response to local economic needs and employment opportunities; and building better partnerships between CTE providers, such as community colleges and employers.

In addition to these provisions, RAMC does believe that H.R. 5587 could be strengthened by including language to better coordinate the efforts of secondary and postsecondary institutions in CTE. CTE programs of study that span secondary and postsecondary levels provide some of the most comprehensive educational experiences for students. We would urge the Committee to adopt provisions that would encourage secondary and postsecondary recipients of CTE funds to work together to strengthen these efforts.

As leaders of some of our country's largest community colleges and community college systems, RAMC members are pleased by this bipartisan effort to provide skills training for in-demand jobs to students across the nation. The importance of CTE has never been higher, and we believe that this bill creates clear pathways for students eager to pursue employment in career and technical fields.



Thank you for your leadership on behalf of our nation's college students, and we look forward to working with you on identifying specific opportunities that encourage more secondary and postsecondary partnerships as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe D. May'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' and 'M'.

Joe May,
President, RAMC
Chancellor, Dallas County Community College District

cc: Rep. Glenn "G.T" Thompson
Rep. Katherine Clark