

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Senate Labor, HHS and Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
Senate Labor, HHS and Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter and Ranking Member Harkin:

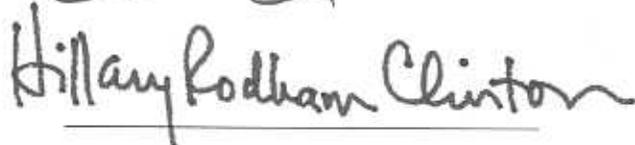
We are writing to urge your subcommittee to preserve funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education program. This highly effective program prepares the nation's students for a wide range of careers and post-secondary education programs.

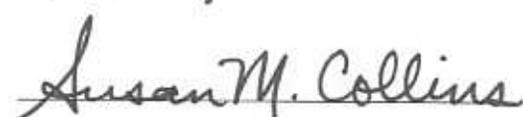
The Perkins Career and Technical Education program is the single largest federal investment in the nation's high schools, and nearly all high school students complete at least one vocational education course. Career and Technical Education courses prepare students to enter the workforce or to continue their education with a much higher degree of focus and direction for their career goals. Just as importantly, vocational education programs foster students' self-confidence and leadership skills by allowing them to utilize their unique gifts and talents. In turn, these students will fill the numerous well-paying technical careers available at the state and local levels.

Unfortunately, the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request proposes the elimination of Perkins vocational education funding. While the Budget Request indicates that certain vocational education activities could be supported as part of the high school reform initiative, we are concerned about the potential loss of funding dedicated specifically to support Perkins vocational education programs. Perkins Career and Technical Education funding provides critical support for local school systems in their efforts to provide students with the education and skills they need for the 21st century workplace.

While we understand this is a very tough budget year, we believe that maintaining the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education program at no less than the FY 2006 level of \$1.3 billion is essential. We appreciate your strong support of the Perkins Career and Technical Education program in the past and look forward to working with you on this matter as the FY 2007 Appropriations process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Jim Jeffords

Erin Boyle

Patrick Leahy

Tom F. Kelly

Mack Denton

Patty Murray

Chuck Grassley

Jeanne Schiavo

Frank R. Lautenberg

Bob Dole

John Ensign

Carl Levin

John Z. Sauer

Daniel K. Akaka

Herb Kohl

Byron Z. Dorgan

Chuck Schumer

Nina Feigold

Robert Meneugy.

Jack Reed

Jeff Zin

Pat Roberts

Rehli Starnow

Mark Hyde

Maria Carbone

Lyethia

Kent Larned

Ken Salazar

Sam De

Robert A. Neuhoff

Elizabeth Dole

Olympia Snowe

Mike Cryo
