



June 21, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 2353, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 59 members of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), I write to express our strong support for H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.

Career and technical education (CTE) programs are critical to ensuring secondary and postsecondary students can achieve the technological literacy necessary to succeed in the 21st century global economy. This bill to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act will better equip future employees with the education and skills to pursue well-paying jobs in the technology industry and advanced manufacturing, catalyzing U.S. economic growth and innovation.

Last year, there were 3.3 million unfilled science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) jobs in the United States alone. This number reflects the shortage of trained and qualified workers to fill these high-demand positions. By facilitating greater cooperation between educational institutions and industry partners, H.R. 2353 will improve employer engagement in the design and delivery of work-based learning systems within local communities.

The technology sector is committed to strengthening the skills of the American workforce; however, success cannot be achieved by industry alone. Policymakers must also make a concerted effort to better prepare our students to pursue careers in rapidly-growing STEM fields. ITI applauds the bipartisan efforts of the sponsors of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, and we urge you to support the legislation when it comes to the House floor for a vote tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Garfield", is written over a horizontal line.

Dean C. Garfield
President and CEO

cc: Members of the House of Representatives