

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2022

Dear Colleague:

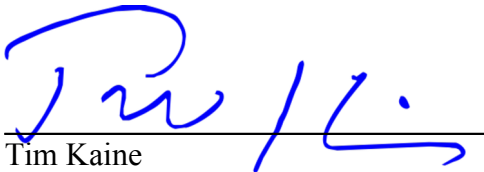
Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a proven strategy for creating jobs, retraining workers, and ensuring that students of all ages are career- and college-ready. Because CTE is critical for a globally competitive American workforce, we lead the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus to highlight its importance in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce.

According to the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, approximately 11 million students participated in secondary and postsecondary CTE programs at thousands of CTE centers, comprehensive high schools, career academies, CTE high schools, and nearly 1,000 two-year colleges. Across the country, CTE programs play a vital role in ensuring that skilled workers are capable of remaining competitive in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career fields. CTE programs prepare students for every sector of our economy, ranging from STEM disciplines such as nursing, allied health, construction, information technology, energy, cybersecurity, sustainability, to other fields that keep our nation competitive in the global economy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has displaced millions of American workers and fundamentally changed entire industries within the economy. CTE programs provide workers with upskilling and re-skilling opportunities, allowing for a quicker and more equitable economic recovery. Further, CTE is pivotal in addressing the nation's longstanding skills gap in industries that are critical to our nation's infrastructure, which will need at least 15 million new workers over the next decade. By training a competitive workforce to fulfill these 21st Century demands, CTE programs assist businesses in closing the skills gap every day.

CTE programs exist in every state and congressional district. Therefore, we invite you to join the bipartisan Senate Career and Technical Education Caucus. Together we can improve America's competitiveness and help facilitate job opportunities for our constituents. To join the Senate CTE Caucus, or for more information, please contact Karishma Merchant ([karishma\\_merchant@kaine.senate.gov](mailto:karishma_merchant@kaine.senate.gov)) in Sen. Kaine's office or Nancy Martinez ([nancy\\_martinez@young.senate.gov](mailto:nancy_martinez@young.senate.gov)) in Sen. Young's office.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator