



May 17, 2017

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member Scott, and Representatives Thompson and Krishnamoorthi:

On behalf of the 60 members of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), I write to express our strong support for your legislation, H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. 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 their communities. The alignment of our educational approach with the reality of our current local, regional, and state workforce needs will not only drive regional growth, but also reinvigorate the economy at the national level.

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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act, and urges the committee to advance the legislation at the upcoming markup.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "D. Garfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a horizontal line above the name.

Dean C. Garfield  
President and CEO