

# ALA American Library Association

June 5, 2017

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

The American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its more than 57,000 members, writes to express our support for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 2353), legislation reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins).

Reauthorization of Perkins demonstrates the value of federal investment in our nation's career and technical education (CTE) system which builds rigorous academic standards and innovation while training individuals for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

We applaud the efforts of the House Education and Workforce Committee and the bill's lead sponsors, Representatives Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), for this bipartisan effort to support CTE. Perkins recognizes the importance of a well-rounded educational experience for all, particularly for technical education programs and those individuals seeking to improve their marketable skills and career opportunities.

Libraries play a valuable role supporting and working to improve secondary and postsecondary CTE programs across the nation. Libraries, and certified librarians, provide valuable CTE resources, equipment, technology, instructional aids and publications designed to strengthen and support academic and technical skills achievement. In many communities, libraries, and qualified librarians, play a significant role in career and technical development. Often, the library is the only place for individuals to utilize highspeed broadband access. Libraries provide access to online databases and resources that assist participants in CTE programs.

ALA applauds the inclusion of provisions related to library resources aligned with business and industry needs recognizing the significant role of the library and qualified librarians. These provisions will help facilitate the ability of library leasing, purchasing, upgrading or adapting equipment, including educational material, instructional aids and publications designed to strengthen and support academic and technical skill achievement.

The American Library Association thanks the Committee for its bipartisan work to reauthorize the Perkins Act and strengthen CTE programs. ALA remains committed to supporting high-quality CTE that meets the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin L. Maher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kevin L. Maher

Deputy Director, OGR

American Library Association, Washington Office