



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Perkins Reauthorization Passed by House Is 'Strong Action' to Address U.S. Skills Gap

Washington — Business Roundtable today welcomed House passage of a bill to reauthorize career and technical education (CTE) programs that demonstrably improve student outcomes after high school. The U.S. House of Representatives today approved H.R. 5587, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, an update of the *Perkins Act*, by a 405-5 vote.

Wes Bush, Chairman, CEO and President of Northrop Grumman Corporation and Chair of the Business Roundtable Education and Workforce Committee, highlighted the importance of this legislation in helping to close the skills gap:

"With this vote, the House of Representatives has taken strong action to address the growing mismatch between the skills that many job candidates possess and those required to succeed in the modern workplace. This legislation will provide backing for the CTE programs that prepare students to take the jobs of today and tomorrow.

"We especially salute Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for their leadership on this bill. Business Roundtable CEOs will work closely with the Senate and House to ensure final legislation that improves student outcomes and reflects the priorities of business leaders."

Earlier this year, Business Roundtable worked with the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to develop principles to guide the reauthorization of the *Perkins Act*. In a [letter](#) to Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott sent earlier this week, Wes Bush highlighted how closely the legislation reflected those principles:

- CTE must be relevant and meaningful for students.
- Recipients of *Perkins* funding must be accountable for results.
- The business community must be actively engaged in helping to inform and support CTE at the state, regional and local levels.
- The *Perkins Act* must provide for state/local innovation and reward excellence.

To learn more about the Business Roundtable solutions to expand job creation and grow the U.S. economy, visit: BRT.org/growth.

Business Roundtable CEO members lead companies with \$7 trillion in annual revenues and nearly 16 million employees. Business Roundtable member companies have a combined stock market capitalization of \$7.9 trillion and invest \$129 billion annually in research and development. Our companies pay more than \$222 billion in dividends to shareholders and generate more than \$495 billion in sales for small and medium-sized businesses annually. Business Roundtable companies also make nearly \$8 billion a year in charitable contributions.

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