



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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June 27, 2025

Honorable Patty Murray, Senator	Honorable Maria Cantwell, Senator
Honorable Suzan DelBene, Representative	Honorable Emily Randall, Representative
Honorable Rick Larsen, Representative	Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Representative
Honorable Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Representative	Honorable Kim Schrier, Representative
Honorable Dan Newhouse, Representative	Honorable Adam Smith, Representative
Honorable Michael Baumgartner, Representative	Honorable Marilyn Strickland, Representative

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation,

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, as the state career and technical education (CTE) board and state workforce board, writes to express our deep concerns with recent Congressional budget proposals and federal agency actions that will negatively impact U.S. Department of Education programs, and the availability of qualified workers, including:

- The Interagency Agreement (IAA), which will move the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education of the Department of Education to the Department of Labor, will reverse years of progress in changing the societal, parental, student, and employer perceptions of CTE and Adult Education from dead-end programs for poor educational performers to accessible, navigable pathways to high-demand careers and gainful employment. There will be no oversight of the educational indicators of success for these programs, as Labor's focus is limited to employment and earnings outcomes. These two metric rates will be decreased if educational oversight is removed, as educational attainment correlates with better employment and earnings outcomes.
- Eliminating the Adult Education and Family Literacy program will close the door to educational and economic mobility for hundreds of thousands of adults seeking foundational skill development. This reasonably inexpensive education program (which nationally provides about \$715 million per year) leverages millions more to create innovative and accelerated career entry opportunities for individuals who would otherwise churn in low-wage jobs.



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- Limiting Perkins funding for K-12 only, undermines the K-16 and K-20 education structures that have been created across the country. Articulated secondary to postsecondary CTE pathways, many with early college credit options, have helped to increase high school graduation and college-going rates. Perkins-funded postsecondary CTE, such as through Washington's community and technical colleges, supports direct linkages with industry, professional development of faculty, and the creation of modern programs of study. Perkins has supported innovative postsecondary CTE programs that include work-based learning, including apprenticeship and industry recognized credentials.
- Vocational Rehabilitation services funding is significantly reduced through a proposed "change in mandatory program" (CHIMP) and adding unfunded requirements. Cuts in wraparound services likely would increase costs for services, and additional work requirements for public benefits would likely increase applications, adding to need and cost. With the proposed budget, a waitlist for services would need to be implemented. The proposed budget would severely limit economic mobility options for individuals with disabilities. Progress has been made to open doors to career success, economic self-sufficiency and meaningful contribution to the economy for people with disabilities, who represent a significant untapped talent pool to meet employer workforce needs. Full funding for the public vocational rehabilitation programs reduces public assistance and other state costs, and supports a healthy workforce and economy.

These changes will negatively impact our ongoing efforts to build a stronger workforce in Washington, which helps employers and workers succeed in a global economy.

We urge you to reconsider these changes and consider alternatives. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,


Gary Chandler, Co-Chair, Business


Cherika Carter, Acting Co-Chair, Labor

Cc: Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director, Workforce Board
Rose Minor, Director Federal and Interstate Affairs, Office of the Governor
Members of the Workforce Board