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# ROOFING DAY IN D.C.

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2022

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## Investment and Reform of Career and Technical Education

Chronic workforce shortages caused by demographic shifts and the ongoing pandemic remain the top challenge facing roofing industry employers. It is increasingly difficult to find qualified candidates for well-paying, family-sustaining jobs. Greater investment in and reform of career and technical education is essential to providing strategies and tools to help employers address workforce development needs.

**As Congress considers federal appropriations, the roofing industry supports increased funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education State Grants**, which provide resources for CTE programs operated at the state and local levels. This funding is critical to high schools, community colleges, small businesses and students who need training to help close the skills gap in the workforce.

Unfortunately, during the past decade, appropriations for CTE have not kept pace with growing demand in a rapidly changing economy, and funding for Perkins State Grants has not kept pace with inflation. Further, the amount of federal funding dedicated to CTE pales in comparison to funding provided for attendance at four-year colleges though about 40% of students enrolled in these institutions fail to obtain a degree, according to [educationdata.org](https://educationdata.org). Congress should dramatically increase investments in CTE. Failure to do so will negatively affect students who are striving to obtain the skills needed to succeed in the current economy. This is even more true now given recent economic trends that have only been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The roofing industry also supports efforts in Congress to reform the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to ensure more job creators can take advantage of its benefits.** WIOA reauthorized the Workforce Investment Act, which was enacted in 1998 to consolidate state and local programs aimed at helping displaced workers develop employment skills and find jobs. Authorized funding grew modestly through 2020, and Congress is discussing ways to reform this program. In addition to increased funding for WIOA, the roofing industry supports reform that addresses burdensome paperwork for small businesses, lack of awareness of the program within communities, allowing funding to be used for competency-based and online programs and required credentialing, and better functioning workforce boards that meet the urgency of employers' needs.

**Request: Greater investment in and reform of career and technical education through Perkins Grants and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are essential to providing the necessary tools to help employers address workforce development needs.**

**For questions, please contact  
NRCA's Washington, D.C., office at (202) 546-7584 or (800) 338-5765.**