



November 19, 2025

The Honorable Kevin Kiley
Chairman
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Secondary Education
House Committee on Education and
Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Secondary Education
House Committee on Education and
Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kiley and Ranking Member Bonamici,

The National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) strongly supports legislative efforts to strengthen Career and Technical Education, which is a critical tool for addressing workforce development needs within the roofing industry. NRCA wishes to comment regarding the hearing titled “From Classroom to Career: Strengthening Skills Pathways Through CTE” to review stakeholder input, and requests this letter be included in the official hearing record.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation’s oldest trade associations and the voice of roofing professionals worldwide. Our nearly 4,000 member companies represent all segments of the industry, including contractors, manufacturers, distributors, consultants, and other employers in all 50 states and internationally. NRCA members are typically small, privately held companies with the average member employing 45 people and attaining sales of \$4.5 million per year. The U.S. roofing industry is an essential \$100 billion sector with nearly one million employees that provides critical materials and services to ensure home and business safety.

Chronic workforce shortages continue to be the top challenge facing roofing industry employers, including our contractor and manufacturer members, as an aging workforce and other demographic trends make it more difficult to find qualified candidates for well-paying, family-sustaining jobs. Greater investment in CTE is essential to providing the strategies and tools needed to help employers address expanding workforce needs. CTE provides access to opportunities for students who want to develop skills, increase their knowledge and contribute to their communities by pursuing a rewarding career.

NRCA was pleased to support enactment of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act in 2018, legislation that expanded and improved CTE under the Perkins Act, which governs programs in all 50 states and territories. We commend Rep. Glenn Thompson for his leadership on this landmark legislation that was enacted with broad, bipartisan support. The law has provided for more effective collaboration between employers and educational institutions in the design and implementation of CTE programs.

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Following enactment of this legislation several years ago, it comes as no surprise there are positive signs of growing interest in CTE around the country. For example, the National Student Clearinghouse has indicated there was a 16% increase in trade school enrollment in 2024, a record high since the organization began collecting data of this nature in 2018.

As a result, it will be critical for trade schools to obtain continued legislative support and increased funding from Congress to keep up with growing demand and help employers meet their workforce needs, especially in an era of rapid technological change. An estimated 75% of the funding for CTE programs comes from public sources at the federal, state and local level. However, in recent years, appropriations for CTE have not kept pace with inflation and growing demand despite the importance of these programs to sustaining economic growth. Moreover, over the past few decades, federal policies that support college bound students have been funded at far greater levels compared to support for CTE, leading to fewer students going into the trades. This lack of support is one of the primary reasons that a disproportionate number of jobs open today are for skilled tradespeople.

NRCA strongly urges Congress to give higher priority to investments in CTE in the future. This includes increased funding for Perkins State Grants, which provide funding for CTE programs operated at the state and local levels. This funding is critical to high schools, community colleges, small businesses and the students who need training to help close the skills gap in today's workforce.

Finally, as Congress begins to consider potential legislation to further improve and reauthorize the Perkins Act, NRCA looks forward to working with lawmakers on how best to strengthen CTE to meet the demands of the roofing industry and broader U.S. economy in the years to come. Thank you for your consideration of NRCA's views on this important issue. If you have questions please contact Brad Stine in our Washington, DC office at bstine@nrca.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'McKay Daniels', written in a cursive style.

McKay Daniels
Chief Executive Officer