



November 5, 2015

The Honorable Mike Enzi
The Honorable Robert Casey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Enzi and Casey:

On behalf of the Technology and Telecommunications Task Force of the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) thank you for the opportunity to comment on the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Act. As you begin this reauthorization process, the Technology and Telecommunications Task Force urges you to remember the importance of ensuring full accessibility of all materials and equipment for students with disabilities.

To help improve the outcomes of individuals with disabilities and support the positive transition to career training and/or postsecondary education that can begin as early as middle school, the Technology and Telecommunications Task Force urges you to consider this principle as you begin your work:

- Assure all pre-service and in-service Career and Technical Education (CTE) professional development programs for any personnel involved in the direct delivery of educational services also includes training in designing and implementing accommodations and modifications [as appropriate] for students with disabilities, including the use of the principles of universal design for learning as defined in the Higher Education Act and use of materials and equipment that are accessible for students with disabilities or can be made fully accessible through the use of assistive technology.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to working with you as this reauthorization moves forward.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the CCD Technology and Telecommunications Task Force Co-Chairs: Eric Buehlmann, eric.buehlmann@ndrn.org; Mark Richert, 4justice@concentric.net; Audrey Busch, audrey.busch@ataporg.org; Sara Rosta, sara.rosta@PPSV.com; or Michael Brogioli, mbrogioli@resna.org.

Sincerely,

Mark Richert, American Foundation for the Blind

Audrey Busch, Association for Assistive Technology Act Programs

Sara Rosta, Perkins

Michael Brogioli, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

Eric Buehlmann, National Disability Rights Network

- Include provisions to update and specifically align The Act with the Workforce Innovation Opportunity and Improvement Act (WIOA), especially as it relates to promoting competitive, integrated employment (CIE).
- Emphasize and incentivize schools to begin transition planning for students with disabilities to ensure students gain CTE experience through simulations, internships, apprenticeships and other evidence-based programs that employers, postsecondary and career programs can demonstrate lead to meaningful outcomes including CIE.
- Include special education, general education teachers and specialized instructional support personnel in any/all professional development to provide the knowledge and skills teachers need.
- Assure all pre-service and in-service CTE professional development programs for any personnel involved in the direct delivery of educational services also includes training in designing and implementing accommodations and modifications [as appropriate] for students with disabilities, including the use of the principles of universal design for learning as defined in the Higher Education Act.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to working with you as the reauthorization moves forward.

Sincerely,

Eileen Dombrowski Lindsay Jones

Easter Seals National Center for Learning Disabilities

/Kim Musheno/

Kim Musheno Laura Kaloi

Association of University Centers for Disability Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates

Cindy Smith

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with disabilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society. For additional information, visit www.c-c-d.org.

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander

The Honorable Patty Murray