

NASDCTEc Talking Points
H.R. 1447
May 6, 2015

Background: Two key things to keep in mind as we discuss this bill— passage of WIOA & wider employer interest in CTE

- WIOA passed Congress last year by large, bipartisan majorities
 - o BIG emphasis in the 114th Congress is how to align other programs to this new legislation
- For the past two years, large national employers / associations, such as IBM, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and NAM have been extremely interested in Perkins reauthorization
 - o The point of emphasis for them—strong labor market alignment for ALL CTE programs (both secondary and postsecondary) receiving Perkins \$\$

****Members of Congress have been heavily influenced by both of these factors for about the past year****

The Perkins Modernization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1447)

- Bill is a reintroduction from the 113th Congress—
 - o Last year nearly the same bill was introduced, but it did not contain references to WIOA
- Sponsored by Reps. Kennedy (D-MA), Polis (D-CO), Davis (R-IL), Kinzinger (R-IL)
 - o Kennedy main impetus behind this effort
 - o Polis is the only person on the House Education Committee
 - This is important—w/o that connection, the bill would not have much traction
- Likelihood of passing as a stand-alone amendment: **minimal**
 - o Bigger issue is that this legislation can be used to inform the wider Perkins reauthorization process
- Overall, the bill seeks to align Perkins to WIOA to increase labor market alignment of programs eligible to receive Perkins \$\$
 - o NASDCTEc supports this conceptually; the execution in this bill is however severely misguided
- **Core concerns with H.R. 1447:**
 - o The main crux of the bill eliminates all of Perkins' current references to "high-demand" occupations or professions replacing it with WIOA's definition for "in-demand occupations / sectors"
 - Doing this eliminates the "OR" in current Perkins program criteria referencing high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand
 - Thus, if the bill were to be enacted, programs receiving Perkins \$\$ would have to meet **ALL** of the current criteria for high-skill, high wage in addition to WIOA's "In-Demand" definition
 - WIOA's "in-demand" determination is made by the WIBs
 - This amounts to indirect WIB sign-off/ approval of the programs eligible to receive Perkins \$\$
 - There is **NO required** K-12 or CTE representation on state or local WIBs
 - The purpose of WIOA's "in-demand" definition is to identify priority sectors / occupations, NOT every possible sector / occupation that has demand in an area

- This would NEGATIVELY impact clusters like agriculture or the trades which often do not meet WIOA’s “in-demand” threshold despite consistent, steady demand for workers in these fields
 - **Example:** *Chicago High School Agricultural Sciences Program* would no longer be eligible for Perkins \$\$ if the IL WIB did not designate Agriculture as an “In-Demand” industry under WIOA
- H.R. 1447 misunderstands **the dual purposes of secondary CTE vs. postsecondary CTE**
 - The role of secondary CTE is preparation for postsecondary education
 - Nearly 2/3 of jobs will require some form of postsec ondary education by the end of the decade
 - The level of labor market alignment that is being called for in H.R. 1447 is more appropriate for postsecondary CTE where pathways to direct employment make more sense and are aligned with Perkins’ accountability system
 - However, this bill requires full (and in our view inappropriate) alignment requirements for both secondary and postsecondary
 - Pure alignment to the labor market also does not take into consideration the value of career exploration for students
- H.R. 1447 misunderstands the overlapping, but ultimately separate purposes of WIOA vis-à-vis Perkins
 - WIOA seeks to secure employment for individuals as **quickly** as possible; focus is on short-term re-employment objectives
 - Does not focus on long-term student development / learning
 - Is part of the “second chance system”— primarily services youth and adults who are disconnected from the system and / or labor market
 - Perkins seeks to fully develop the technical and academic skills of students for lifetime career success
 - Focus is on secondary-postsecondary collaboration to workforce
 - Is part of the “first chance system”—primarily services youth and adults already connected to the system
- Other issues with the bill:
 - **MISSION CREEP:** Adds two new purposes to Perkins that would further enlarge scope of the law
 - NASDCTEc proposes to streamline Perkins’ purpose—each iteration of Perkins has added new purposes to the law rather than fundamentally reevaluating the purpose of the federal investment
 - Adds a requirement that state eligible agencies spend Perkins \$\$ on labor market analysis
 - While admirable, most state Perkins agencies are not equipped to do this (vast majority are at the K-12 level)
 - Duplicative of what SHOULD be going on at a state DOL
 - Bill should have encouraged collaboration, not duplication of effort