



NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS



NDSC-NDSS EDUCATION ALERT

September 19, 2016

Immediate ACTION Needed on the Perkins Career and Technical Education Senate Bill

NDSC and NDSS urge you to contact your Senators, especially those on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, on Monday or Tuesday about their work to reauthorize (amend) the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The HELP Committee is planning to “mark up” (edit) the Senate bill on Wednesday. Tell your Senators that:

- Federal oversight from the current law must be retained to ensure that the funds under the Act are used in an equitable and effective manner for ALL students.
- Students with intellectual and developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to benefit from career and technical education. The recommendations of the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) must be incorporated in the Senate bill to address issues related to students with disabilities, regardless of their disability category.
- The National Down Syndrome Congress, National Down Syndrome Society, local Down syndrome organizations and our family cannot support the Senate Bill unless these changes are made.

You can reach your Senators by calling the Senate switchboard number (202) 224-3121. The list of Senators on the HELP Committee is at <http://www.help.senate.gov/about/members>.

BACKGROUND

The Senate bill would weaken accountability in the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act by greatly reducing federal oversight authority for state implementation of the law – the same thing that happened in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We must stop this pattern of diminishing federal authority in major education bills or our children's rights will be in significant danger when IDEA is reauthorized. Federal oversight is critically important to ensure that states, districts and schools are held accountable for implementing these laws in an equitable manner for ALL students.

You can read the CCD recommendations for the reauthorization of the Perkin's Act. at <http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-Recommendations-on-Perkins-Final32416.pdf>. If Congress incorporates these recommendations in the reauthorized law, students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased opportunities to benefit from career and technical education.

Please contact Ricki Sabia at ricket@ndscenter.org or Heather Sachs at hsachs@ndss.org with any questions.

Recognizing the importance of education policy and how it will affect our constituents, you may receive informational emails, called Education Alerts, and Action Alerts from both the NDSC and NDSS. Our two organizations are committed to working together on education issues, including ESSA implementation, IDEA-related issues and other education matters. NDSC's Senior Education Policy Advisor, Ricki Sabia, will lead this collaboration, and will work closely with Heather Sachs, NDSS Vice President of Advocacy & Public Policy, coordinating education policy strategy to best serve the entire Down syndrome community.