



June 29, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries and its 2,300 U.S. member companies, I am writing you to express our industry's strong support for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act and to commend you for your leadership on the bill.

IPC is a global industry association representing all facets of the electronics industry, including design, printed circuit board manufacturing, electronics assembly and test. We are a member-driven organization and leading source for industry standards, training, market research and public policy advocacy to help meet the needs of an estimated \$2 trillion global electronics industry.

As a training and certification leader, one of our top priorities is to promote workforce development initiatives, educate and train workers to fill manufacturing jobs, and be innovative in finding ways to close the skills gap. Our members, who employ 2 million individuals throughout the United States, are highly dependent on workers with technical skills with many jobs not requiring an advanced degree in STEM. We appreciate your leadership to address these workforce challenges.

IPC is currently addressing this issue with a multi-pronged, industry demand-driven approach that will cover all aspects of skill building from middle school to adulthood. We are in the process of creating competency-based learning models aligned with IPC standards and certifications, and building on existing programs as well as expanding their reach. IPC is in the process of conducting a job task analysis (JTA) and has established a JTA Committee consisting of IPC members. The JTA Committee is focusing on STEM education, K-12 programs, the needs of the emerging workforce, and connecting with four-year universities and technical colleges. IPC is also actively engaging its industry members to explore appropriate and relevant 'earn and learn' programs—including apprenticeship models—that will further strengthen career pathways for emerging and incumbent workers.

We look forward to working with you to address the skills gap and we offer our full support to enact this important legislation into law. In the meantime, IPC is urging other Senators to co-sponsor this bill. Please let me know if IPC can be of assistance to you, or when there is an opportunity that I can represent the views of the electronics industry on education and workforce. You can contact me directly or IPC's Senior Director of North American Government Relations, Ken Schramko in our Washington, D.C. office at KenSchramko@ipc.org or 202-661-8094.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Mitchell", written in a cursive style.

Dr. John W. Mitchell
President & CEO
JohnMitchell@ipc.org