



**ACS**  
Chemistry for Life®

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**Thomas M. Connelly, Jr., Ph.D.**  
Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer

June 26, 2018

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

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society, I want to convey our support for the bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Career and Technical Education Act (CTE) which would provide federal support to state and local career and technical education programs.

A well-educated workforce drives the technological developments that allow the United States to maintain its competitive edge in the global marketplace. Preparing students with the skills necessary to address rapidly evolving needs requires improvements to all levels of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. CTE programs are effective tools for improving student outcomes and helping to prepare both secondary and postsecondary students with the necessary academic, technical and practical skills essential to their future success.

It is vital that each student attain an appropriate level of scientific and technical competence to be prepared for challenges and opportunities in the 21st century economy. The ACS believes that CTE programs positively impact the sciences by increasing access and entry points into the STEM workforce.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the committee and Congress as they work to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. If ACS can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Posey at [l\\_posey@acs.org](mailto:l_posey@acs.org).

Very truly yours,

Dr. Thomas M. Connelly, Jr., Ph.D.