

## Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act

### Problem

- The Perkins Act was cut by \$140.2 million (11%) in the fiscal year (FY) 2011 budget, bringing the total appropriations to \$1.1 billion.
- President Barack Obama's FY12 budget proposed to increase Department of Education funding by \$2 billion, but there were **significant cuts to the Perkins Act**.
- The President proposed cuts to Perkins that would bring the total FY12 appropriations to \$1 billion.

### Solution

- **Maintain Perkins Act funding** in the FY12 budget bill at current levels.
- Vote "no" on any bill that proposes to cut Perkins Act funding.

### Rationale

- Cuts to CTE programs will **reduce the number of educated, skilled workers** at a time when the nation needs to create jobs and rebuild its economy.
- Cuts to Perkins funding will result in **severe consequences for students and teachers**:
  - Schools will lose professional development,
  - Students' access to the latest technology and equipment will be limited,
  - The integration of academic and technical courses will slow,
  - Fewer courses and services will be available to students.
- Cuts to CTE programs come as state budgets are facing significant budget shortfalls. It is unlikely that states will be able to replace the funding, which means **effective education and employment strategies will end**. This will exacerbate, not improve, the economy.
- Despite high unemployment rates, there are jobs available for skilled individuals in certain industries (e.g., welding, manufacturing, green energy). CTE ensures that individuals have the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for **career readiness** in these and many other industries.
- Enrollment at community and technical colleges, which rely on Perkins funding, are the highest in years as students and laid off workers are seeking **education and training to upgrade existing skills or acquire new skills**.