



**International Technology and Engineering
Educators Association**

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NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release

Perkins Legislation Experiencing Major Cuts – What Can You Do?

RESTON, VA., FEBRUARY 17, 2011 – Recently, significant activity has been taking place in Washington, DC that has the potential to hinder or help technology and engineering teachers. It's budget season in Washington, meaning that the Executive and Legislative branches are going through the process of creating the FY 2012 Budget. Both branches have proposed cuts to the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act in a year when the entire country is expecting cuts. The President reduced the Perkins Act to the 1991 level with a cut of \$264 million. At the same time, the House, which is looking at a FY 2011 bill has proposed a cut of \$102.9 million. These cuts will have a significant effect on technology and engineering programs in schools that depend on Perkins funding. Technology and engineering teachers should educate themselves on the process and directions being taken with this legislation. The Senate will be involved in providing further discussion and direction before the process is completed. Programs relying heavily on Perkins funding may find that they will be curtailed significantly. The best way to protect this funding is to promote your program requirements and successes to your elected officials.

Technology and engineering teachers should become well informed on the direction of this funding. Provide supporting data and thoughts on why this funding should not be cut. Encourage the same of your colleagues in district or regional offices. Don't underestimate the power that you have with your own elected official in terms of influence. You may not achieve every goal, but it is of critical importance to share your professional experience as a teacher in relation to this legislation. Don't hesitate to contact your elected officials to inquire about the specifics on any bill that may be of interest. They will be happy to do so and in most cases welcome the opinions of constituents. Have factual data on hand to show the importance of your program in terms of student achievement. You can make a difference.

For further information about the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA), email iteea@iteea.org, call 703-860-2100, or visit the website at www.iteea.org.