



## Construction Industry Round Table

## Legislative News

*A force for positive change in the design / construction industry*

### **12/07/2016 - Perkins Act Reauthorization Delayed Until 2017**

The House Education and Workforce Committee, which had been working to pass a Perkins Act Reauthorization bill during the lame-duck session, notified the Opportunity America Coalition (*of which CIRT is a member*) that the legislation would not be passed before the end of the year.

The “stumbling block” came in the Senate where there was some disagreements over the final version between the parties. The reauthorization vehicle is a comprehensive package known as H.R. 5587; within it are valuable reforms that create innovative grants to improve CTE and align workforce skills with labor market needs, as well as integrate industry recognized credentials with federal dollars.

Fortunately, the House is committed to the bill and plans to bring it up for consideration early in the next Congress. Also valuable to the bill’s ultimate success is the fact President-elect Trump appears to be in support of measures like the Perkins Act. During his recent speech in Cleveland, Ohio he spoke of his desire to ensure students be able to pursue a trade or a skill set through vocational and technical education by making it easier to access, pay for, and finish such a path.