



March 8, 2024

The Honorable David Osborne
Speaker of the House
Kentucky State Capitol Annex Building
702 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Speaker Osborne:

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is reaching out to extend our support for [House Bill 499](#), which is poised to positively impact Career and Technical Education (CTE) in our state. By incentivizing high-quality programs, HB 499 aligns with the Prichard Committee's pursuit of excellence in education.

House Bill 499 is important for the following reasons:

- Advocates for a fairer allocation of funds between state and locally managed Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, ensuring equitable support across the board.
- Ensures every student, no matter their location, benefits from equal access to high-quality education resources.
- Prioritizes performance-based funding and encourages the development and maintenance of high-quality programs.

The incorporation of a performance-based funding model is particularly commendable as it mirrors the Prichard Committee's commitment to a meaningful diploma that signifies readiness for careers and postsecondary success. Moreover, HB 499's initiative to extend funding to CTE programs for grades 5-8 could boost the early engagement of students in STEM fields, a critical step for cultivating interest and skill in these pivotal areas from a young age.

The funding investments proposed by House Bill 499 would allow for significant improvements in the quality of CTEs, support state and local programs, and foster innovations. This is an opportunity for our state to lead in creating a robust, forward-thinking workforce that will drive economic growth and prosperity.

The Prichard Committee is committed to working alongside you to enhance education opportunities and outcomes for our young learners.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Blom
President & CEO
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence