

**Testimony on SB 5327 – CCL  
2/20/19 3:30 pm Sen Ways & Means JACB SHR 4**

Good afternoon. I am Michelle Nims on behalf of Washington State PTA, speaking in support of SB 5327.

Washington State has a critical workforce gap and career connected learning and career technical education can help fill that void with family wage jobs and career advancements. But CCL is more than a way to address the economic prosperity of Washington.

It also makes a difference in the lives of students. These classes are the reason some students stay in high school. 81% of high school dropouts report that relevant, real-world opportunities would have kept them in school. Concentrating on a CTE subject in high school increases the postsecondary completion rate from 31% to 75%. Investments made in career-connected learning will have a huge return on investment.

Counselors, parents and students need to understand the available options, so more training and more guidance counselors will be needed in our schools.

We ask that the work group set up by this bill be expanded to include the voice of parents and students.

Career Connected Learning can help deliver a K-12 education that prepares Washington's students for career, college and life. WSPTA urges you to make this important investment in Washington and its students. Thank you.