



**PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING  
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION®**

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### **PHCC Statement in Support of the Student CTE Mental Health and Wellness Act**

*August 14, 2024* - The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) is the premier national building trades group serving plumbing and heating, ventilation, & air conditioning (HVAC) contractors and has been for over 140 years. Our membership includes over 3,000 open shop and signatory contractors in both the residential and commercial sectors, employing over 65,000 professionals across the United States.

PHCC chapters at the state and local level often partner with CTE schools to provide training and educational resources to those students seeking a career in the plumbing and HVAC trades, and we thank Rep. Nick Langworthy for introducing the CTE Student Mental Health and Wellness Act.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools play a critical role in providing the job training and education needed for success, especially as more high school graduates pursue careers in the skilled trades for gainful, long-term employment and a pathway to the middle class. Like any post-secondary institution such as a four-year college or university, CTE schools offer a variety of student services promoting an educational environment conducive to personal and professional growth.

However, unlike many post-secondary institutions, CTE schools are not eligible for federal grants for student mental health and substance abuse counseling under the Public Health Service Act, even though the personal challenges faced by many CTE students are no different than their peers in other institutions of higher learning. The CTE Student Mental Health and Wellness Act addresses this oversight by ensuring CTE schools are eligible for federal grants to provide counseling services to help students overcome the mental health challenges with which they struggle.

The plumbing and HVAC contractors of the PHCC are grateful for Rep. Langworthy for recognizing the need of CTE students, many of whom we welcome into our businesses and personal lives, to have the same access to mental health resources as their counterparts in four-year colleges and universities.

PHCC urges Congress to pass the CTE Mental Health and Wellness Act and stands ready to work with any stakeholders seeking its swift passage.

Joseph Cornetta

President

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association