



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
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March 5, 2013

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
House Committee on Education & the
Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education & the
Workforce
2121 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

I am writing in support of H.R. 803, the *Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act*. I applaud the Committee for taking up the necessary and overdue reforms that will help cultivate the talent our employers need while providing job seekers with the updated tools they need to develop essential skills. .

The reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act is an opportunity to meet the needs of today's employers and workers. The system must move from a supply-driven economy to one that is demand-driven. In today's global economy, business development, talent development, infrastructure and adult education must work together on a region-wide basis, to leverage scarce resources and drive economic prosperity. The goal must be a system that increases the return on investment for taxpayer dollars by fostering job creation, growth, and retention.

I support the overall spirit of the reform proposals put forth in the SKILLS Act, as they echo many of the same themes we have focused on as we reinvent Michigan. That is, increase the role of employers in workforce investment decisions, target our resources to in-demand jobs, eliminate barriers to innovation, focus on outcomes, increase transparency and streamline services.

I am particularly pleased with the restoration of the 15% state set-aside, which enables states to implement innovative programs that are tailor made for our diverse workforce and employer needs. However, I would encourage the Committee to designate these funds at the state level. By removing bureaucratic barriers and limiting prescriptive funding provisions, the SKILLS Act will provide states with the flexibility to address unique workforce development challenges with solutions that will develop the talent our new economy demands.

Once again, I thank you for considering these essential reforms to our nation's workforce development policy. I look forward to the continued and improved partnership between states and the federal government as we continue to reinvent our workforce.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder
Governor

cc: House Education & Workforce Committee
Michigan Congressional Delegation