



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM



COST OF
GOVERNMENT
CENTER

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

CC: The United States House of Representatives

Dear Congresswoman Foxx,

We write to urge support of your bill, H.R. 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act. The bill would streamline federal workforce development programs, saving taxpayer dollars and promoting effective reform of the job training system.

The SKILLS Act will begin to reduce and reform the massive bureaucracy designed to improve and invest in the nation's workforce. At a cost of \$18 billion each year, taxpayers can hardly afford to continue to waste these resources on efforts that do nothing to encourage and grow a competitive and skilled workforce.

H.R. 803 aims to do more with scarce taxpayer dollars. It would repeal programs identified as duplicative and ineffective by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO). The bill would also strengthen oversight of job training programs, requiring them to withstand independent evaluations every five years.

Importantly, the bill would release state and local governments from indiscriminate federal mandates, allowing policymakers on the ground to dictate how resources should be used to better aid their communities.

The SKILLS Act takes the commonsense step of increasing the role actual job creators play in local workforce decisions. The bill would increase the number of employers on Workforce Investment Boards to better inform and respond to diverse needs of diverse populations.

Your bill will ensure the \$18 billion spent on job training programs does not serve as a slush fund for government employee unions. Instead, H.R. 803 increases opportunities for participants to find gainful employment in the private sector, providing the training and opportunity for workers to fill the 3.6 million jobs the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates currently lay vacant.

With persistently high national unemployment and 12 million Americans looking for work, it is time for the federal government to get out of the way of job creators and seekers. The SKILLS Act will help eliminate many of the inefficiencies of current job training programs, and save taxpayers from wasting billions on complicated and ineffective mandates that do little to strengthen the American workforce.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Mattie Duppler
Executive Director
Cost of Government Center

722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T:(202)785-0266

F:(202)785-0261

www.atr.org