

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

March 5, 2013

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and  
the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and  
the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, supports H.R. 803, the "Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act."

Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is long overdue and the Chamber believes H.R. 803 would allow for some much-needed updates and improvements to America's workforce and training system.

Specifically, this legislation would repeal many ineffective and duplicative federal training and employment programs. The Chamber believes this consolidation, when combined with additional state and local flexibility for the delivery of these services, would allow more adults and dislocated workers to more efficiently receive the services they need to not only find a job, but also stay employed.

H.R. 803 would require both state and local workforce boards to have a two-thirds business majority, ensuring an employer-driven system focused on in-demand jobs. Additionally, in order to guarantee training that reflects employment needs in local and regional economies, these boards would be required to engage the local business community, and coordinate with economic development agencies.

While WIA was developed to streamline workforce training needs, an insufficient amount of training and education occurs under the current system. The Chamber applauds provisions of the "SKILLS Act" that address this problem through a reservation of funding for training based on an analysis of the job needs of the local area. Finally, the Chamber is pleased that the legislation would reauthorize current law provisions that ensure competition among training providers and enable individuals to have maximum choice in selecting a provider.

The Chamber supports H.R. 803 and looks forward to working with the Committee and the Congress to strengthen the nation's workforce and training system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Josten" being the most prominent parts.

R. Bruce Josten

Cc: The Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce