



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

March 14, 2013

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

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Education and
the Workforce
2121 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

I am writing to express my support to provide flexibility to the Work Investment Act (WIA) as the House debates H.R. 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act.

Ohio's workforce needs have changed significantly since WIA was created. Governors are in the best position to identify their states' workforce demands and convene the assets within their states to address them. Unfortunately, the current formulation of WIA creates several barriers to allowing states to efficiently provide valuable training opportunities to their workforce. The SKILLS Act moves the process in the right direction by granting states increased authority to use federal dollars to develop a skilled workforce.

Workforce needs, however, differ not only from one state to another, but also vary greatly within different regions of a state. Ohio presently has 91 workforce training programs, many of which are federally funded, spread out over multiple state agencies. Despite many readily identifiable programs that serve similar purposes and should be consolidated, governors lack the authority to do so under current federal law. States should be permitted to streamline training programs in ways that they identify as having the best employment outcomes. Furthermore, governors should be granted as much flexibility as possible over the use of federal funds, allowing them to focus on their state's businesses' most critical workforce needs. Lastly, in addition to streamlining the law's governance system and increasing state input on the makeup of local work investment boards (WIBs), governors also need the ability to reorganize WIBs as well as One-Stop Centers. The power to unify and combine WIB and One-Stop Career Center activities within a state is paramount to effective WIA reform and Ohio's overall workforce development efforts.

Together, these reforms are an important step to reforming WIA and allowing states to create a workforce that has the skills job creators want. Thank you for your work to help give Governors the tools they need to improve the economies in their state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Kasich".

John R. Kasich
Governor