



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. BOX 001  
TRENTON  
08625  
(609) 292-6000

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
GOVERNOR

March 6, 2013

Congressman John Kline  
Chairman, Education and Workforce Committee  
2439 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman George Miller  
Ranking Member, Education and Workforce Committee  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Gentlemen:

I am writing to express my strong support for the SKILLS Act presently before the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce. The SKILLS Act is a meaningful step toward eliminating federal mandates as well as consolidating federal employment and training programs. More importantly, the bill makes government more effective in that it simplifies and consolidates duplicative and overlapping job training programs.

By streamlining federal workforce training programs, the SKILLS Act would reduce the administrative burden that current law places on the states. It also provides states with the needed flexibility to tailor job training programs, acknowledging that the needs of New Jersey are surely different than those of other states.

I am also pleased that the SKILLS Act preserves the 15% set-aside that states like New Jersey use to innovate and administer our re-employment programs. This flexibility allows us to use WIA funds at the state-level to pursue new ideas and react quickly to changing circumstances or disasters.

I respectfully ask you to support the SKILLS Act to simplify federal workforce programs, provide states with necessary flexibility, and ensure that states maintain the 15% set-aside for innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Christie".

Chris Christie  
Governor

c: NJ Congressional Delegation