



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Kline:

I am pleased to support H.R. 803, the "SKILLS Act of 2013." H.R. 803 proposes a market-driven approach to talent development designed to prepare individuals seeking employment for the jobs of today - and the jobs of tomorrow - whether that person currently relies on the social safety net, is seeking skills upgrade training, or looking to advance within an emerging industry.

H.R. 803 proposes important changes that facilitate regional alignment of markets and resources, including strengthened authority for Governors to designate the boundaries of workforce areas. Increasing the business representation on state and local boards improves our alignment with market needs. In Florida, we have found that volunteer board members who come from businesses of all sizes and stages bring with them a wealth of experience that help us shape policies with a keen focus on reducing red tape, forging strategic partnerships, measuring return on investment, and pursuing greater efficiencies.

The improvements created by consolidation of existing job training programs that support similar activities and funding streams have contributed to Florida's job recovery. Many of the steps taken by H.R. 803 to provide our nation's workforce systems with necessary flexibility have been enacted by Florida, making us a leader among state workforce programs. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to say the 7.9 percent unemployment rate in the Sunshine State is a 2 percent reduction from last year and is at its lowest point since November 2008. Florida is working. It is time for our government to follow. Let's get to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Rick Scott  
Governor