



March 13, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Capitol Building, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA), representing nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems, other health care organizations and 42,000 individual members, and the American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration (ASHHRA), an AHA personal membership group of health care human resources professionals, we are pleased to express our support for the *Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act* (H.R. 803).

The SKILLS Act streamlines, consolidates and improves workforce development programs by creating a seamless system designed to facilitate educational opportunities and offer support for employers, workers and job seekers. The measure creates a Workforce Investment Fund designed serve as a single source of support to augment state workforce initiatives and provide flexibility in financing employment and training programs. Additionally, the bill seeks to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy that prevents existing workforce development activities to be better tailored to meet the needs of local workers, students and employers.

An adequate, diverse and well-distributed supply of health care professionals, including allied health care workers, is indispensable to our nation's health care infrastructure. Programs to train health care professionals are essential to ensure that access to health care is available in every community. Local training programs also support recruitment of individuals into allied health care progressions.

Our nation must maintain a vibrant workforce in the educational pipeline. Without decisive intervention, workforce shortages threaten hospitals' ability to care for patients and communities. The provisions of the SKILLS Act will help meet this need.

Again, we are pleased to support this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President
AHA

Stephanie Drake
Executive Director
ASHHRA