



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION
Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

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Victory in the House: SECTORS Act Passes with Bi-partisan Support

Washington, DC - This afternoon the U.S. House of Representatives passed the SECTORS Act (HR 1855) on a unanimous voice vote demonstrating that investing in the skills of America's workers and industries is an issue that cuts across party lines.

Last week, House Leadership fast-tracked the SECTORS Act as part of on-going efforts to promote and support our nation's economic recovery. Members on both sides of the aisle recognize the need to address skill mismatches in the labor market, such as those highlighted in a recent [New York Times article](#) about businesses that are ready to hire but can't find workers with the right technical skills amidst a 9.5 percent unemployment rate. With strong bi-partisan support for the measure the bill was placed on the suspension calendar, which allowed it to bypass committee, but required a two-thirds vote on the House floor.

[The SECTORS Act](#) was developed by National Skills Coalition with state and national partners, and lead sponsors Representatives Loeb (D-IA) and Platts (R-PA) in the House and Senators Brown (D-OH), Murray (D-WA) and Snowe (R-ME) in the Senate. Co-sponsored by 20 Representatives and 6 Senators, and endorsed by 168 [organizations](#) including 75 [employers](#), the bill allows businesses, unions, the public workforce system, and education and training providers to develop and implement plans that target job training at the current and anticipated skill needs of industries within a geographic region. An independent evaluation of these programs being released by Public/Private Ventures tomorrow shows strong outcomes for workers participating in these programs.

The SECTORS Act would strengthen the infrastructure that brings together industry and our training institutions, to help both local workers and local firms in the same industry, and help ensure that workers are getting the skills that employers need and that employers can find and hire the skilled workforce they need to compete and lead the global economy. It is a federal investment that will replicate and help take to scale the best practices of the workforce development field, supporting efforts already going on in communities around the country, and

ensure that federal investments in skilling up our nation's workforce efficiently and effectively support our nation's economic recovery.

Thank you to all of our members across the country - employers, unions, colleges, community based organizations, and public workforce agencies - who helped to develop and move this vital piece of legislation forward.

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National Skills Coalition is a broad-based coalition working toward a vision of an America that grows its economy by investing in its people so that every worker and every industry has the skills to compete and prosper. We engage in organizing, advocacy, and communications to advance state and federal policies that support these goals – policies that are based on the on-the-ground expertise of our members.

National Skills Coalition was founded in 1998 as The Workforce Alliance in response to a series of federal policies that signaled the end of national investments in the skills of America's workers at a time when skill gaps were growing in key U.S. industries. Since then, we've demonstrated that investments in skills work. We've shown that diverse stakeholders can find agreement around specific reforms that will improve a variety of workforce education and training policies. And we have documented that the American public is strongly supportive of a deeper investment in the skills of America's workers. We continue to mobilize support for a new national skills agenda that cuts across public policies, and simultaneously serves a wide range of U.S. workers and industries. For more information, visit www.nationalskillscoalition.org.