



Testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee

Given by Amy Carter, Legislative Assistant, Indiana Institute for Working Families
February 7, 2017

Good Morning Chairman Brown, members of the Committee.

My name is Amy Carter and I'm with the Indiana Institute for Working Families, a program of the Indiana Community Action Association. The Institute's mission is to help low income families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency.

I'm here today to support HB 1008 on behalf of the Institute's higher education and workforce policy team who can't be here with you today because today they are in Washington D.C. meeting with Indiana's congressional delegation, including member meetings with Representatives Messer, Walorski and Hollingsworth, to discuss the very issues that this bill will help to address.

The Institute serves as coordinator and co-chair for the Indiana Skills2Compete Coalition, a broad-based coalition of 25 members representing 19 organizations whose mission it is to advance Indiana's economy by improving the skills attainment of Indiana's workforce, particularly that of low-income, low-skilled adults.

Through this work we have learned that Indiana must train many more adults if we are to compete in the 21st century economy. According to 2015, US Census data 62.8% of working age Hoosier [25-64] had only a high school diploma, OR some college, but no degree.

Additionally, Indiana needs to ensure that all students know about the opportunities that exist through training for the many "middle skill jobs" that Indiana will need to fill in the coming years. [MIDDLE SKILL JOBS DEFINITION= more than high school, less than 4 year degree; Short-term certifications thru assoc. degrees] In 2015, 58% of Indiana's jobs were middle-skill, but only 47% of our workers had educational attainment in the middle skills.ⁱ Based on the most recent projections from the National Skills Coalition, demand for these credentials is expected to remain strong, between 2014 and 2024 55% of all Indiana's job openings will be middle-skill.

We'd be remiss if we didn't point out that the students this initiative will help through the workforce readiness grants and workforce tax credits are largely adult or non-traditional students who often have work and family obligations in addition to their attempts to upgrade their skills. These adult students will need supportive services like reliable transportation and quality child care to make completion a reality. These adult-targeted solutions in HB 1008 are very much needed to improve Indiana's economy, as 65% of the projected workforce of 2025 were ALREADY working-age adults in 2010. (SEE BELOW)

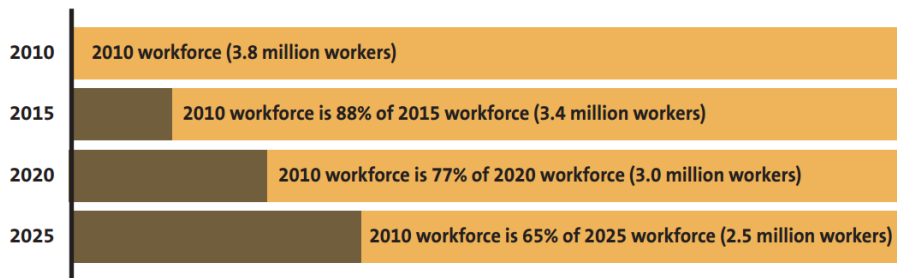
It is the Institute’s belief that the provisions in HB 1008 will make great strides in improving the skills of Indiana’s workforce, and helping Indiana move the needle towards its “big goal” of 60% of Hoosiers to have a post-secondary degree or credential by 2025. We want to thank Reps. Huston, Clere, and Braun for their leadership on this issue and we urge your support on the bill.

Unfortunately, I may not be in a position to answer your questions, but I’m happy to take them back to the Institute and someone from the Higher Ed/ Workforce Policy team will get back to you when they are home from DC.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

For AMY’s FYI

Figure 7. Current Working Age Indiana Adults in the Current and Projected Population, 2010-2025



Source: Calculated by National Skills Coalition using population projections from the Indiana Business Research Center.

ⁱ <http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/publications/2017-middle-skills-fact-sheets/file/Indiana-MiddleSkills.pdf>