



JULY 31, 2017

## Kaine, Portman introduce bipartisan bill to support infrastructure workforce

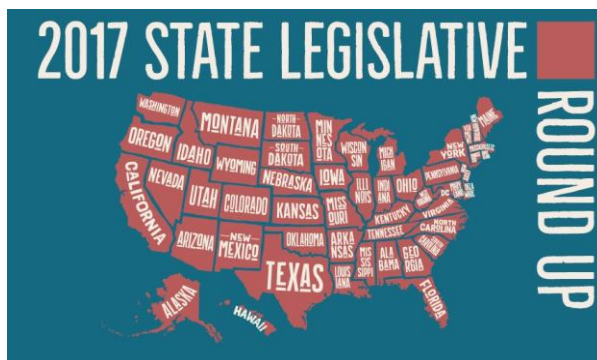
On July 20, Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Rob Portman (R-OH) introduced the



[Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills \(BUILDS\) Act](#) that would support grants to industry partnerships in transportation, construction, energy, and other infrastructure sectors. The grants would allow local partnerships to develop work-based learning programming, such as apprenticeships, that help workers and businesses get the skills they need to rebuild our nation's infrastructure. [Read more about this bipartisan legislation over on our Skills Blog.](#)

## Workforce legislation in the states

This year, several states enacted legislation to help close the skills gap by expanding job-driven financial aid policies, increasing work-based learning opportunities and apprenticeships, and increasing the use of workforce data. [NSC's 2017 State Legislative Roundup](#) is a comprehensive list of all the workforce legislation passed in the states this year.



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## NSC IN THE NEWS

[Helping Career Education Become a First Choice](#) | *Inside Higher ED*, 7.5.17

[The Workforce of the Future](#) | *Outside the Box*, 7.7.17

[Here's what the June unemployment rate is not telling you about](#)

## WDQC engages federal and state leaders on policy proposals

At a meeting organized by New York State

Assembly Member Harry B. Bronson, WDQC and other experts [reviewed a legislative proposal](#) to create three wage data clearinghouses in the state.

Business leaders from the Atlanta area praised the [College Transparency Act](#) on a July 13 call with staff from the offices of Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA). National Skills Coalition organized the call, which featured Amy Lancaster, Director of Workforce Development at the Metro Atlanta Chamber, and Scott Burton, President of Whitaker-Taylor. Rep. Ferguson is co-sponsoring the legislation -- along with more than a dozen other [Congressmen](#) and [Senators](#) -- to improve information about college outcomes, including employment and earnings.



**WORKFORCE  
DATA QUALITY  
CAMPAIGN**

## House subcommittee proposes steep cuts to workforce, education programs

On July 12, the House Appropriations Labor, Health

and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee released its draft of the [Fiscal Year 2018 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill](#). The bill cuts funding across all three agencies - Department of Labor funding would be cut by \$1 billion, or about 8 percent relative to current FY 2017 levels; the Department of Education would be cut by about \$2.4 billion, about 3.5 percent lower than current levels; and the overall budget for Health and Human Services would be cut by \$542 million, about 7 percent lower than current levels. [See the impact of these cuts.](#)



7.7.17

[Support Grows for Major Shift in Pell](#) | *Inside Higher ED*, 7.10.17

[Help wanted: auto technicians in demand, but jobs are going unfilled due to skills gap](#) | *Denver Post*, 7.10.17

[Credentials offer path to the middle class](#) | *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 7.21.17

[Kaine, Portman introduce bill to support job training for skilled infrastructure jobs](#) | *Augusta Free Press*, 7.21.17

[Medina manufacturers focus on closing skills gap with new program](#) | *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, 7.24.17

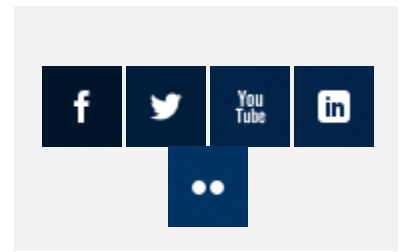
[An Educational 'Booster Shot' for America's Labor Force](#) | *The Chronicle of High Education*, 7.24.17

### PARTNER RESOURCE

Skillful is seeking a dynamic, strategic, and analytic **Director of State Expansion** to lead the next phase of Skillful's growth, setting the strategy to scale to future regions. The full job description can be found [here](#).

**Indiana to provide free community college certificate programs for in-demand fields**

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb recently signed



into law Senate Bill 198 which provides free community college to students seeking a certificate in a “high value” field. This legislation, called the Workforce Ready Grant, is the product of a partnership between Governor Eric Holcomb, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, and was supported by the Indiana Skills2Compete Coalition. The state will provide \$2 million a year for the grant program. [Learn more about the Workforce Ready Grant.](#)

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**Senators introduce dream act; includes middle-skill pathway**

On July 20, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced the



Dream Act of 2017. The bill would provide a path to legal immigration status and eventual U.S. citizenship for undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children and meet eligibility requirements. Notably, the bill includes a provision that would enable immigrants who earn certain middle-skill credentials to obtain legal status. NSC has long advocated for this provision, which ensures that the Dream Act is responsive to current U.S. labor market needs. American businesses across all fifty states show strong and continuing demand for workers who are trained at the middle-skill level. [Read more about the bill and why a middle-skill pathway matters.](#)

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**Congressional  
democrats  
highlight skills  
training as part  
of “Better Deal”**

On July 24,  
Congressional  
Democrats  
released details  
of the new

[“Better Deal”](#)

campaign in

advance of the 2018 elections. The Better Deal agenda will highlight tax incentives for employer-based training while also boosting federal investments in apprenticeship and public-private partnerships. [Learn more about how the campaign will support skills training.](#)

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**USDA launches SNAP  
E&T data grants**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced a new grant opportunity for states to improve their data collection and reporting systems for

Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T).

All 53 state agencies that administer SNAP may apply for this competitive grant. USDA will select up to nine states to receive awards of \$300,000 to \$1 million each. [Learn more about the grants on the Skills Blog.](#)

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**Save the date!  
Join us for the  
2018 Skills  
Summit**

Join us on  
February 6-8 at  
the Omni  
Shoreham Hotel  
in Washington,  
D.C. for the

2018 Skills Summit. The Summit offers local practitioners the opportunity to come together and share their knowledge with policymakers during this key period. Registration will open in October with an early bird registration fee. Any questions can be directed to [Jessica Cardott](#). Please mark your calendar and join us this February in Washington, DC!

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## On the road with NSC

- Chief of Staff Rachel Unruh gave a presentation on federal policy and ran a workshop on state advocacy strategies at the [Annie E. Casey Foundation's](#) Generation Work Cross-site Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.
- State Network Director Brooke DeRenzis and State Network Manager Rachel Hirsch conducted a technical assistance day for the [Oregon Pathways Alliance](#). They shared information on the federal policy landscape, state policy examples, including SNAP E&T, and best practices for advancing skills issues. They also facilitated a virtual peer-to-peer discussion between the Oregon Pathways Alliance participants, Kim Becicka, Vice President, Continuing Education and Training Services at [Kirkwood Community College](#), and Collin Callaway, Chief Operating Officer, [Arkansas Community Colleges](#).
- Director of Upskilling Policy Amanda Bergson-Shilcock joined California state officials and staff from ALLIES, a technical assistance provider, for the first convening of the state's ELL Navigator grantees. As previously detailed on NSC's Skills Blog, [the ELL Navigator program](#) uses WIOA discretionary funds to help immigrants and English Language Learners navigate the workforce system.
- WDQC Director Rachel Zinn and Policy Analyst Christina Peña participated in a convening of federal and state labor market information leaders to identify priorities for collaborative action. The day-long discussion in Baltimore was organized by the [National Association of State Workforce Agencies](#), and the [LMI Institute](#).

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1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Suite 712, Washington DC 20036  
Phone: 202.223.8991 · Fax: 202.318.2609