

# National Skills Coalition 2016 Federal Legislative Agenda

Middle-skill jobs, which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree, make up the largest part of the labor market. Key industries are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these jobs. National Skills Coalition's federal legislative agenda will help increase the diversity and number of Americans receiving education or training toward a middle-skill career, and the number of middle-skilled workers being hired by local companies to fill open, good-paying jobs.

## Funding

### 1. Provide full funding for workforce and career and technical education in the FY 2017 budget.

Congress has slashed funding for workforce education programs by \$400 million since 2010. Congress should fund Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act state grants at \$3 billion and Perkins CTE state grants at \$1.3 billion.

## Adult Basic Education/ESL

### 2. Double federal funding for adult education in the FY 2017 budget.

Thirty six million adults have limited English, reading, or math skills that prevent pursuit of middle-skill credentials, but just 1.5 million are served annually through federal programs.

Congress should increase funding for WIOA Title II to \$1.2 billion.

## Higher Education Act Reauthorization

### 3. Pass the JOBS Act (S. 1900, H.R. 3986) to expand Pell eligibility to short-term postsecondary certificates.

Employers need more workers with short-term middle-skill certificates, which are a stepping stone for entry-level and low-wage workers.

### 4. Pass the Student Right to Know Before You Go Act (S. 1195, H.R. 2518) to provide better information about post-college workforce results.

Students, educators, employers, and policymakers need to know which postsecondary programs are preparing students for jobs.

## Perkins Act Reauthorization

### 5. Pass the Community College to Career Fund Act (S.2222, H.R. 3862) to provide dedicated support for partnerships between industry and community colleges.

Community and technical colleges could use these funds to support high quality training in partnership with local industries, workforce boards, and other stakeholders.

## Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning

### 6. Pass legislation redirecting the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to support apprenticeship and other work-based learning.

Many businesses are investing in work-based learning to help entry-level employees advance, but WOTC doesn't reward employer investments after making a hire. We need to shift those dollars to reward employers who make upskilling a priority.

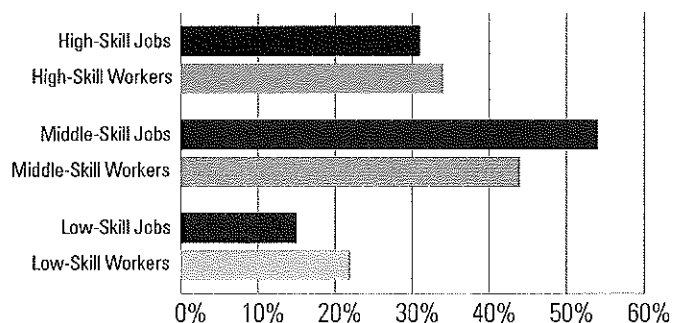
## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization

### 7. Pass legislation to lift current restrictions on TANF skills training.

Fewer than 10% of adults receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families have postsecondary education, an essential tool for transitioning to family-supporting jobs.

### Middle-skill jobs are going unfilled

Jobs and workers by skill level, United States, 2012



Source: NSC analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics by State, May 2012 and American Community Survey data, 2012.

