

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

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**INDIANA STATE SENATORS RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF MIDDLE-SKILLS JOBS
NEED TO ENSURE THAT EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM ARE MEETING
INDUSTRY STANDARDS**

Indianapolis, IN – State Senator Dennis Kruse (R-Auburn), Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development introduced Senate Resolution 85 which urges the assessment of industry recognized standards for key middle-skills industry clusters. The Indiana Institute for Working Families, a program of Indiana Community Action Association, worked with Senator Kruse on the resolution. A hearing on the resolution was held today and the resolution passed out of committee with 6-0 vote.

The resolution was filed in response to a study released by the Institute in October 2010 as part of the Indiana Skills2Compete Campaign with the National Skills Coalition. The study found that “middle-skill” jobs- those that require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree make up over half of the jobs in the Indiana labor market today and into the near future. The report also finds that nearly two-thirds of the people who will be in Indiana’s workforce in the year 2020 were already working adults in 2005—long past the traditional high school-to-college pipeline. This finding underscores the need for Indiana to continue to target training and education to people who are working or who could be working today.

The resolution comes at a particularly important time. The recession has halted current employment growth, however, more than 487,000 “middle-skill” job openings—those that require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree—are projected for the state by 2016. “The national recession provides a time frame for Indiana to be strategic, evaluate its labor and skill needs, and train and prepare for Hoosiers for the jobs that are expected to grow,” says Jessica Fraser, Research and Policy Analyst with the Indiana Institute for Working Families.

The resolution and report also cite that approximately 55% of Indiana's jobs were in middle-skills occupations; however, only 49% of the state's workers are likely to have the appropriate training for these jobs. “As Indiana looks to remain a strong competitor in the global economy, it’s critical that we help prepare workers for the jobs of the future through cross agency coordination that establishes meaningful industry skill standards, urges Andrea Ray, of National Skills Coalition, the convening organization for the national Skills2Compete campaign.

To view the Senate resolution, visit:

www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&session=1&request=getBill&docno=0085&doctype=SR.

To view the report, and more information on Indiana's Skills2Compete Campaign:
<http://www.incap.org/indianaskills2compete.html>.



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Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA)

The Indiana Community Action Association, Inc. (IN-CAA) is a statewide not-for-profit membership corporation, incorporated in the State of Indiana in 1970. IN-CAA's members are comprised of Indiana's 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which serve all of Indiana's 92 counties. IN-CAA envisions a state with limited or no poverty, where its residents have decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions, and where resources are available to help low income individuals attain self sufficiency. To learn more about IN-CAA, visit www.incap.org.

Indiana Institute for Working Families

The Indiana Institute for Working Families promotes data-driven policy that results in opportunities for Hoosier families to become self-sufficient. The Indiana Institute for Working Families, a program of the Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA), was founded in 2004. The Institute is the only statewide program in Indiana that combines research and policy analysis on federal and state legislation, public policies, and programs impacting low-income working families with education and outreach. The Institute achieves its work by focusing its activities in the following areas: public policy research and analysis; advocacy, education, and information; and national, statewide, and community partnerships. To learn more about the Institute, visit <http://www.incap.org/iwfw.html>.

About Skills2Compete

Skills2Compete is a non-partisan campaign to ensure the U.S. workforce has the skills needed to meet business demand, foster innovation, and grow broadly shared prosperity. The campaign's diverse and growing list of endorsers include national and local leaders from business, labor, education and training, community and civil rights groups, and the public sector. The Skills2Compete Vision: Every U.S. worker should have access to the equivalent of at least two years of education or training past high school—leading to a vocational credential, industry certification, or one's first two years of college. National Skills Coalition organizes broad-based coalitions seeking to raise the skills of America's workers across a range of industries. We advocate for public policies that invest in what works, as informed by our members' real-world expertise. And we communicate these goals to an American public seeking a vision for a strong U.S. economy that allows everyone to be part of its success. For more information, visit www.nationalskillscoalition.org.