



October 14, 2021

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

On behalf of New Jersey's businesses and community colleges, we are writing to respectfully ask you to sign legislation (A-3027) that ensures a stable and significant investment every year in the Workplace Literacy and Basic Skills Training program. This program, an innovative statewide partnership between New Jersey's 18 Community Colleges and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, was created by state legislation in 2001 and since that time has provided training to more than 185,000 incumbent employees across over 11,000 employers with funding from the Supplemental Workforce Fund for Basic Skills. As a result of this program, New Jerseyans have received the basic skills training they need to advance in their careers and businesses have benefited from a more productive workforce.

The legislation, sponsored by Senators Sandra Cunningham and Troy Singleton and Assemblymembers Pamela Lampitt, Mila Jasey, and Eric Houghtaling, passed unanimously in both the Senate and the Assembly in June of this year. The legislature's universal support for this legislation is a recognition of the success of this program in assisting individuals and businesses across the state.

New Jersey's Community Colleges and NJBIA remain committed to working with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and other state agencies to ensure that this program is aligned with the state's efforts to assist individuals to obtain basic skills and to assist businesses to upgrade the skills of their employees.

We ask that you sign this legislation providing ongoing support for a program, built on strong innovative partnerships, that expands economic opportunities for New Jerseyans and builds a skilled workforce to propel economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ARF".

Aaron R. Fichtner, Ph.D., President,
New Jersey Council of County Colleges

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele N. Siekerka".

Michele N. Siekerka, Esq., President and CEO
New Jersey Business and Industry Association