



SEP 19 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-7010

Dear Mr. Leader:

In anticipation of Senate consideration of S. 675, the "Training for Realtime Writers Act of 2007," I am writing to convey the Bush Administration's opposition to the establishment of a new grant program to promote training and job placement for realtime writers.

The Administration understands that this program was designed to meet the requirements for closed-captioning of video programming as set forth in section 713 of the Communications Act of 1934 and the rules prescribed thereunder. While recognizing the importance of closed-captioned programming in promoting accessibility, the Administration does not believe a special federal grant program is needed to facilitate job training in this field, which shares much in common with other stenographic skills and is aided by ongoing development in speech-recognition technology. A new categorical workforce training program dedicated to a specific occupation is an inefficient use of funds and duplicates existing programs, like the Department of Labor's High Growth Job Training Initiative, that prepare workers for jobs in high-growth industries. The President's Fiscal Year 2008 Budget does not provide for the funding authorized under the bill, nor does the Department have the subject-matter expertise necessary to administer the program envisioned in S. 675. Accordingly, the Administration opposes enactment of S. 675.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these views to you. The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of these views from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Sullivan".

John J. Sullivan

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Vice Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation