

Senate Resolution No. 1908

BY: Senator COONEY

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2-6, 2026, as SkillsUSA Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those organizations which work diligently to prepare the next generation of skilled professionals and leaders essential to the vitality of our State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2-6, 2026, as SkillsUSA Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, February 2-6, 2026, has been designated by the national association SkillsUSA as SkillsUSA Week; and

WHEREAS, The theme for 2026, "SkillsUSA: Champion Your Future," emphasizes the importance of empowering students to take ownership of their education, career goals, and lifelong success; and

WHEREAS, Career and technical education provides students with a direct pathway from school to careers, forming the backbone of a strong and educated workforce that drives innovation and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, By championing their future through SkillsUSA, students develop essential personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics, ensuring they are prepared for the demands of a rapidly changing global economy; and

WHEREAS, The United States faces a projected talent shortage and skills gap that could result in a loss of trillions of dollars by 2030, making programs like SkillsUSA critical to sustaining economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, SkillsUSA empowers students to become champions of their own success by fostering leadership, responsibility, and resilience, qualities which are essential for thriving in both careers and communities; and

WHEREAS, Employers consistently report challenges in finding skilled candidates; however, career and technical education and SkillsUSA provide students with real-world experiences and industry-recognized credentials that close the skills gap and open doors to meaningful employment; and

WHEREAS, The cooperative efforts of educators, business leaders, and industry partners through SkillsUSA strengthen New York State's economy by preparing graduates for high-demand careers in fields forecasted for significant growth; and

WHEREAS, SkillsUSA serves more than 475,000 students nationwide, including thousands across New York State, equipping them to be high-performance workers and responsible citizens who will champion the future of our workforce; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to recognize the contributions of SkillsUSA and its members who exemplify the theme "Champion Your Future" by striving for excellence in education, leadership, and service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2-6, 2026, as SkillsUSA Week in the State of New York, and to encourage all citizens to support the mission of SkillsUSA and the students who are preparing to become the champions of our future workforce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.