



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

November 3, 2009

Dear Business Leader:

As Governor of the State of Florida, I support the right of all Floridians to enjoy gainful and meaningful employment. I enthusiastically applaud the efforts of the Florida Business Leadership Network (FL BLN.) The FL BLN is a network of employers from around the state, dedicated to assisting your businesses to hire well-matched people with disabilities and reduce your recruiting and retention costs.

People with disabilities, the state's largest minority group, have a high unemployment rate, now approximately 57%. Of those who are not working, two-thirds prefer to work. The FL BLN's mission to improve employment opportunities for Floridians with disabilities should serve as an example for all of the business community. It makes good business sense to utilize this workforce group of qualified, enthusiastic, productive and dependable individuals who are defined by more than just a disability. Together, they also represent the third largest market segment, second only to baby boomers and the aging market.

According to U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Donahue, "Employers tell us that, once hired this labor source provides some of the best employees within a corporation. They are generally dependable, dedicated, hardworking and productive."

Enclosed is a postcard that features a successful employee with a disability. It also contains other information on Business Leadership Networks and the FL BLN. Please consider this information carefully and contact the FL BLN via its website: www.myability.org or by email at info@abletrust.org, to learn more about how you can reach this untapped source of dependable, talented workers.

At this time when we are facing many economic challenges, my administration has focused its efforts toward creating an economic environment that is conducive to business success. Increased job opportunities for all Floridians, including dependable workers with disabilities, will lead to a more diverse and thriving workforce. I thank you for doing your part to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist