



1 CHAMBER PLAZA
FIFTH & MAIN STREETS
DAYTON, OHIO 45402
www.daytonchamber.org

May 31, 2012

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

The Job Corps program is vital to our communities, our small businesses and our economy in the Dayton area. We urge you to maintain your commitment to the Job Corps and their mission to serve and train our youth.

No national career preparation program is more closely allied with local and regional employers and their needs. Employers actively work with their local centers to customize training to meet their needs in 100 different trades in 11 major industries. No other program offers local employers a comparable opportunity to shape curricula in so many occupations. Small businesses in our communities work closely with their Job Corps centers, because these centers reliably produce skilled and responsible workers who can contribute to a small business' growth.

Job Corps also works for our local communities. Every \$1 invested in the program results in about \$2 in economic activity in the local economy, through the purchasing of goods and services in the community. As a result, the average Job Corps center directly and indirectly supports 228 local jobs. Nationally, the 125 Job Corps centers support 30,000 jobs, the vast majority of which are in the private sector.

Most importantly, Job Corps works. It is one of our nation's most effective career preparation programs for economically disadvantaged youth ages 16 to 24 who might otherwise cost our communities and taxpayers billions of dollars over the course of their lifetimes. Job Corps reverses that drain, because 85 percent of graduates secure a job, enter higher education, or enlist in the military.

To ensure our country has continued economic growth and a well-trained workforce, our nation has a responsibility to invest in smart programs that have a proven track record of success. Job Corps is one of the most worthwhile investments toward these goals. For the sake of the youth the program services, the employers who hire them, and our communities, Congress should continue their commitment to the 125 Job Corps centers across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CK", written in a cursive style.

Chris Kershner
VP, Public Policy & Economic Development
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce