



May 8, 2012

The Honorable Congressman Justin Amash
Office of Congressman Justin Amash
110 Michigan St NW
Suite 450
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Congressman Amash:

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce we ask for your consideration in the upcoming budget discussions to support the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps center. This center serves an important role in our community for both at-risk youth and employers.

The Job Corps program works closely with employers of our local community to deliver career preparation programs that are tailored to regional needs. Many local businesses and industries work alongside the Job Corps to prepare students to succeed in future careers. A number of small businesses utilize the Job Corps centers because they produce skilled and trained workers that provide an immediate impact to those companies.

Another important aspect to consider for the Job Corps program is the support that is provided to economically disadvantaged youth. We support their efforts to reach students a young age and prepare them to be successful at their careers. Programs like Job Corps help prevent further dependence on social assistance in the future.

It is important for any government program that provides assistance to show results. The Gerald R. Ford Job Corps center has a success rate for graduates of 85 percent. The students who graduate from the program go on to secure a job, enter higher education or enlist in the military.

We understand there are a number of difficult decisions that will have to be made in the upcoming budget. Our hope is that you consider the value the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center brings to our community during those decisions. We thank you for your consideration and are happy to discuss our support further if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Glass", is written over a light-colored background.

Chris Glass
Director of Public Policy

Connect. Grow.
Succeed!

111 Pearl Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
T 616.771.0300
F 616.771.0318
www.grandrapids.org