

**Prioritize Job Corps Funding in FY 2018 Labor-HHS Appropriations**  
**Closes COB April 4, 2017**

Dear Colleague:

We are asking you to join us in an important letter to the Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and Related Services (Labor-HHS) that prioritizes funding for Job Corps in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations spending bill.

Job Corps is at the forefront of addressing two of the greatest challenges America faces with respect to economic growth and jobs. There are over 5.5 million young Americans who are neither employed nor in school. At the same time, there are over 5.6 million jobs that remain unfilled because employers cannot find workers that possess the skills they need, costing our economy billions. Job Corps bridges this ‘skills gap’ by providing these youth with the career and technical education they need for in-demand careers. Just recently, Monster.com testified before the Labor-HHS Subcommittee about how Job Corps plays a critical role in addressing the skills gap by offering training in over 100 high-demand occupations at 125 campuses nationwide in both rural and urban communities.

For 52 years, Job Corps served as our nation’s premier career and technical education program for out-of-work and out-of-school youth. A gold-standard evaluation of Job Corps found:

- “Job Corps substantially increased the education and training services participants received by about one school year, and the receipt of GED and vocational certificates by about 20 percentage points. It also raised the literacy and numeracy scores measuring skills that adults need to function successfully in daily life.
- Job Corps increased participants’ earnings by about 12 percent in the third and fourth years after random assignment, overall and across most subgroups.
- Job Corps reduced arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates by about 16 percent each.”

In the two decades since the study was conducted, Job Corps has continued to improve. In program year 2015, the average literacy and numeracy gains made by Job Corps enrollees were greater than 2.5 Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) grade-level equivalents and nearly 80 percent of students left with an industry-recognized credential. The result: 86 percent of graduates secured jobs or enrolled in higher education.

Below you will find a draft of the aforementioned letter. If you are willing to sign, please have your staff contact Sarah Nasta in Representative Marcia L. Fudge’s office ([Sarah.Nasta@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sarah.Nasta@mail.house.gov)), Katie Branson in Representative Lou Barletta’s office ([katie.branson@mail.house.gov](mailto:katie.branson@mail.house.gov)), Jonathan Halpern in Representative Sanford Bishop’s office ([jonathan.halpern@mail.house.gov](mailto:jonathan.halpern@mail.house.gov)), or Matt Powell in Representative Tom Marino’s office ([matt.powell@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.powell@mail.house.gov)). We look forward to your support and efforts to ensure that the Job Corps program continues its much needed work to both the employers in seeking to fill positions, as well as with our students in receiving purposeful training.

Sincerely,

/s/

Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH)

/s/

Lou Barletta (R-PA)

/s/

Sanford Bishop (D-GA)

/s/

Tom Marino (R-PA)

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Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As you continue your work in preparing the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, we urge you to include funding for Job Corps that is at least commensurate with the funding levels included in the FY 2017 House and Senate bills.

Job Corps is at the forefront of addressing two of the greatest challenges America faces with respect to economic growth and jobs. There are over 5.5 million young Americans who are neither employed nor in school. At the same time, there are over 5.6 million jobs that remain unfilled because employers cannot find workers that possess the skills they need, costing our economy billions. Job Corps bridges this 'skills gap' by providing these youth with the career and technical education they need for in-demand careers.

Job Corps is a proven academic and job training program. In program year 2015, the average literacy and numeracy gains made by Job Corps enrollees were greater than 2.5 Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) grade-level equivalents and nearly 80 percent of students left with an industry-recognized credential. As a result, 86 percent of graduates secured jobs or enrolled in higher education. Job Corps is capable of serving more than 50,000 out-of-work and out-of-school youth each year and we encourage you to prioritize investments to ensure the program connects as many youth as possible with careers.

We appreciate your ongoing support of Job Corps and urge you to prioritize our request to provide sufficient funding for Job Corps to fill its beds and classrooms. Your support will allow Job Corps to continue its track-record of providing effective career and technical education to many of the most vulnerable young Americans in our communities.

Sincerely,

/s/

Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH)

/s/

Lou Barletta (R-PA)

/s/

Sanford Bishop (D-GA)

/s/

Tom Marino (R-PA)