Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer Secretary Department of Labor 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We are writing to express our support for the continuation of the Job Corps program. We recently received notice of the phased pause in operations at contract-operated Job Corps Centers nationwide taking effect by June 30, 2025. As you know, Congress appropriated nearly \$1.8 billion to all Job Corps programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and remains funded through the FY 2025 Continuing Resolution that passed in March.

Nearly 20,000 young people utilize Job Corps to learn skills for in-demand vocational and technical job training. Job Corps is one of the few national programs that specifically targets the 16-24-year-old population that is neither working, nor in school, and provides them with a direct pathway into employment openings in industries such as manufacturing and shipbuilding. The program also connects these young Americans with apprenticeships, higher education opportunities, or the military. By filling job openings, Job Corps ensures that young people become productive members of the American workforce. No other program takes homeless youth and turns them into the welders, electricians, shipbuilders, carpenters, nurses, mechanics, and vocational workers of the future.

As companies continue to onshore and invest in the men and women of our country, a steady stream of skilled laborers will be required to meet the growing workforce demand. The Job Corps program is uniquely positioned to fill that role and provide these hardworking young Americans with the vocational and technical job training that will set them and our country up for success.

There is no one more capable than the American worker when given a chance at success. We urge you to support our request so that local Job Corps Centers can continue connecting young Americans with careers and opportunities available to them. We are confident that, in collaboration with the Administration and Job Corps Centers in our communities, we can strengthen this program, continuing to develop a highly skilled and competitive labor force.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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