

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 6, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We write to express our grave concern with the “pause” of operations that began at Job Corps centers on May 29, 2025,<sup>1</sup> which will harm students and local economies in every state across the country. The Administration’s decision to illegally and abruptly terminate Job Corps center operations has left 25,000 students and thousands of staff across 99 Job Corps centers in the lurch.<sup>2</sup> The sudden “pause” of operations at Job Corps centers puts young people’s lives at risk, especially a significant number of students who were experiencing homelessness<sup>3</sup> before arriving to the program. Local communities will pay a steep price, especially the thousands of individuals who work at the centers and will lose their livelihoods. While a recent court order instituted a temporary restraining order on the “pause” at Job Corps<sup>4</sup>, the damage of attempting to displace thousands of students has already been felt across the country.

We urge you to immediately reverse this decision to prevent a lapse in education and services for Job Corps students. We further urge that the Department restart enrollments, expeditiously restart background checks, and make any contract extensions or modifications necessary to ensure no interruptions or delays for students or program operations. Congress passed the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2025, which includes \$1,760,155,000 for Job Corps and ensures that Job Corps Centers are funded for the new program year that begins on July 1, 2025. We write to remind you of your obligation to faithfully implement the law.

Since 1964, Job Corps has helped millions of low-income or at-risk young people develop the skills and resilience needed to succeed in work and life.<sup>5</sup> As the largest free residential education and job training program for young adults ages 16-24, Job Corps programs help students complete their high school education, learn high-value technical skills, and connect to employment through intensive education, training, and support services in a residential setting while providing stable housing, medical and mental health care, and other supportive services to ensure their success. At a time when more than 72 percent<sup>6</sup> of jobs will require training beyond a high school diploma, Job Corps provides students with the opportunity to become wildland firefighters to keep our communities safe, nurses to help care for our families, electricians needed to build and maintain clean energy systems, and machinists, pipefitters, and welders to manufacture the next generation of submarines.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20250529>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OPA/newsreleases/2025/05/OSEC20250929.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fox9.com/news/st-paul-jobs-corps-students-move-out-face-homelessness>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/judge-blocks-trump-administrations-effort-eliminate-job-corps-2025-06-04/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/jobcorps>

<sup>6</sup> <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/projections2031/>

Job Corps centers operate in rural and metropolitan regions nationwide<sup>7</sup> and contribute to their local communities and economies. Many centers have partnered with employers, local workforce development boards, government agencies, and community-based organizations to develop the future workforce and meet the needs of local employers.

Abruptly canceling contracts for the nation's Job Corps centers will leave students and communities in the lurch and undermine opportunities for young people to get education and training to succeed in valuable trades. Rather than gutting this valuable program, we urge you to work with Congress to strengthen accountability and program quality for the betterment of young workers, employers needing skilled labor, and communities nationwide, such as reforms included in the bipartisan, bicameral Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization bill from last Congress.

We request that you provide written answers to the following questions as soon as possible, but not later than June 20, 2025<sup>8</sup>.

1. Please provide a list of onboard strength (enrollment) at each center before January 20, 2025 and before the operations pause on May 28, 2025.
2. With Job Corps operations on “pause”, how does the department plan to fulfill its obligations to implement the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, which includes \$1,760,155,000 for Job Corps serving students?
3. Please provide information on the number of students experiencing homelessness prior to enrollment at a Job Corps center based on enrollment at each center on May 28, 2025.
4. Please provide a list of every contract that has been terminated or modified since January 20, 2025, including the total amount of funds to each operator, the amount of funds that each operator has spent up to the date of the contract's termination or modification, and the amount of remaining unspent funds for each contract.
5. What authority is the Department using to “pause” operations? Please provide a citation in law or regulation.
6. The concept of a “pause” does not exist in Job Corps authorizing statute and appears to be an attempt to illegally shut down Job Corps operations without following requirements in law. Section 159 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) includes clear requirements and processes for the closure of Job Corps Centers that were not followed in this “pause”. How does the Department define a “pause” and how is it different than a “termination”?
7. On April 25, 2025, the Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released the first-ever [Job Corps Transparency Report](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/jobcorps/locations), which is used throughout the DOL press release to pause operations at centers.
  - a. Centers have returned funding to DOL when enrollments were lower than expected (but that's not reflected in this report.) Please provide an updated cost per enrollee that accounts for money returned to DOL.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/jobcorps/locations>

<sup>8</sup> A Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) was granted on June 4th. The TRO should not interfere with the Administration's response to our questions above.

- b. The report also provides cost per enrollee based on enrollment from program year 2023. DOL has much more up-to-date enrollment numbers. Please provide an updated cost per enrollee with the enrollments on campuses as of May 28, 2025, incorporating onboard strength at each campus.

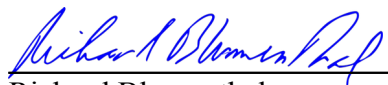
Sincerely,



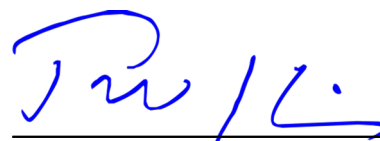
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions



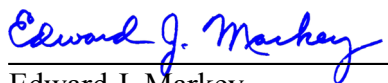
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Angela Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



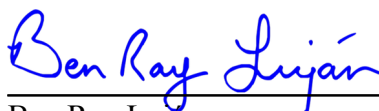
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



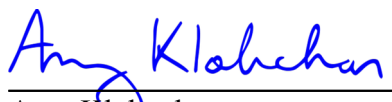
John Fetterman  
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator



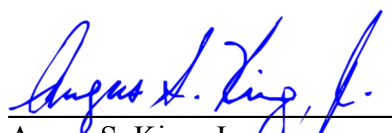
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator




Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



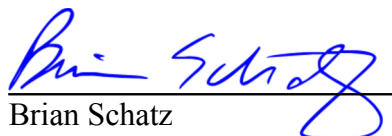
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



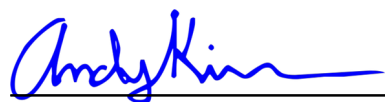
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Andy Kim  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



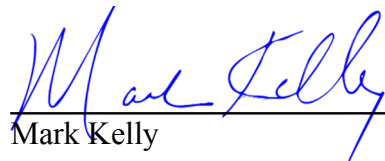
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



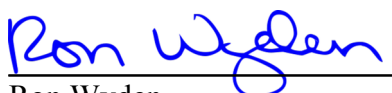
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator




Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

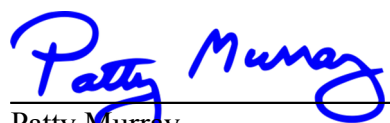


Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

  
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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

  
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Patty Murray  
United States Senator