

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2013

The Honorable Seth D. Harris
Acting Secretary of Labor
United States Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Harris,

We are writing to express our strong concerns over the Department of Labor's plan to suspend student enrollment in the Job Corps program through the end of the 2012 program year in addition to cutting nearly 3,000 student slots at seven selected Job Corps Centers.

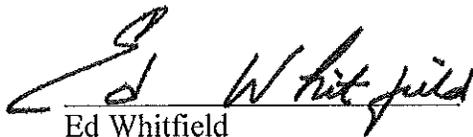
On January 8, 2013, the Department of Labor announced that it would cut almost 3,000 student slots at seven selected Job Corps Centers. In response to that announcement, on January 16, 2013, Assistant Secretary Jane Oates agreed in a conference call with interested Members of Congress to look at alternative cost savings measures, and if student slot cuts were deemed necessary, she agreed to consider spreading them across all Job Corps Centers.

On January 18, Congressional offices were notified that effective January 28, 2013, new student enrollment would be suspended at all Job Corps Centers across the country in addition to the previously announced student cuts at the seven selected centers. This announcement was a stark contrast to the outcome that was anticipated after the conference call. The severe cuts to the Clearfield, Earle C. Clements, Gary, Guthrie, Keystone, Turner, and Westover Centers, combined with the decision to suspend student enrollment at all Job Corps centers, will not only be detrimental to students, it will have a significant negative impact on staff and local economies. Many centers across the country will be forced to lay-off a significant portion of their staffs, and this is far from what these communities need as they are still struggling to recover from unprecedented unemployment and economic instability.

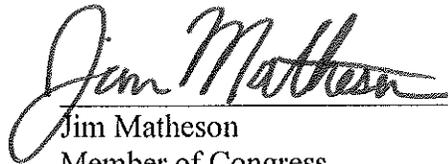
Sadly, this is the third time in eight months that the Department of Labor has suspended or cut student enrollment in the Job Corps program due to operational budget shortfalls. When asked, the Department of Labor has not provided Congressional offices with the amount of money that will be saved by implementing these policies. Also, the Department of Labor continues to say that the hope is these cuts will be temporary, through the end of the 2012 program year. However, Congressional offices have not received any guarantees in writing from the Department of Labor that Centers will be able to recoup those student slots on July 1, 2013, the beginning of the 2013 program year.

In Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis' resignation announcement, she stated that she was proud of the \$65 billion spent by the Department of Labor on job training programs. We ask that in your new position as Acting Secretary, you place a 30 day moratorium on reducing student slots and suspending enrollment, enabling the Department more time to reconsider these policies and instead work with center directors and operators to develop a reasonable, alternative cost savings plan to recapture the 2012 program year's budget shortfall. Since the suspension of enrollment is scheduled to go into effect on January 28th, we request a reply prior to that date.

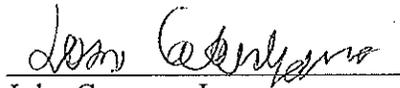
Sincerely,



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson
Member of Congress



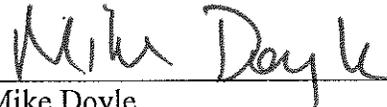
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



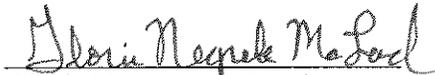
Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



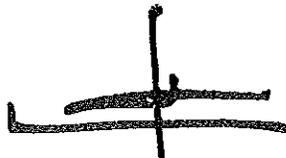
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito

Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Robert Goodlatte

Robert Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Joaquín CASTRO

Joaquín Castro
Member of Congress

Donna M. Christensen

Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

Linda J. Sánchez

Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
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H. Morgan Griffith

H. Morgan Griffith
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Chris Stewart

Chris Stewart
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Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott
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Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas

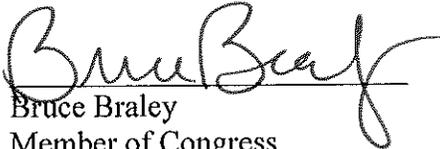
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress

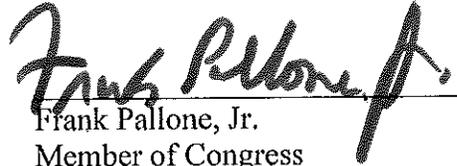
Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

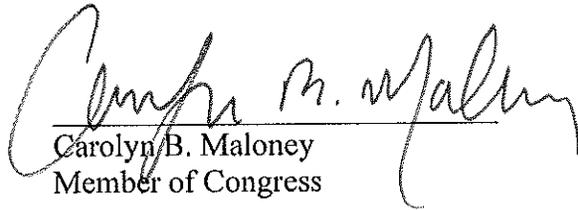

Bruce Braley
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

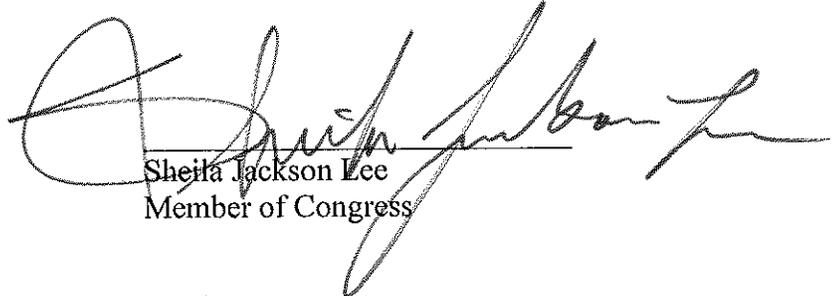

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

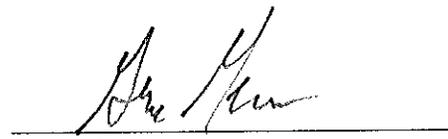

Al Green
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress


Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

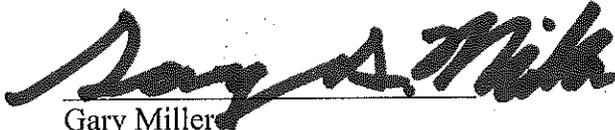

Gene Green
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Gary Miller
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



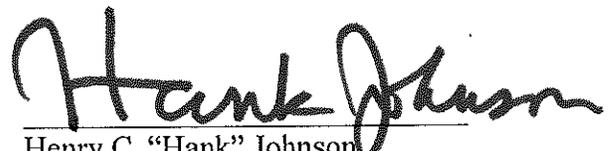
Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



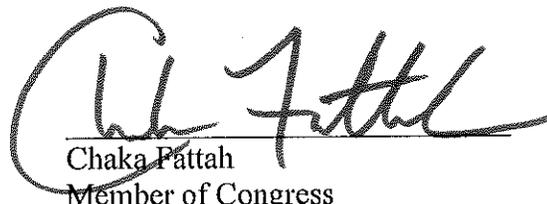
André Carson
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



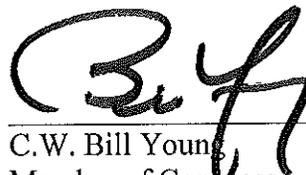
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Chaka Pattah
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress



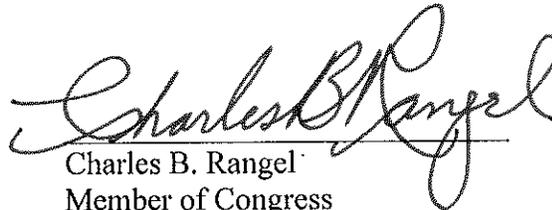
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress



Christopher Gibson
Member of Congress



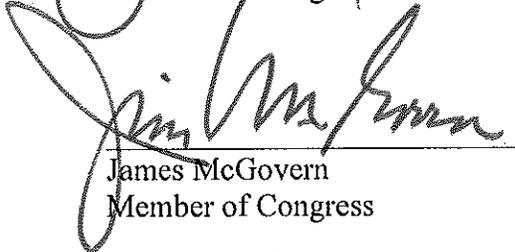
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



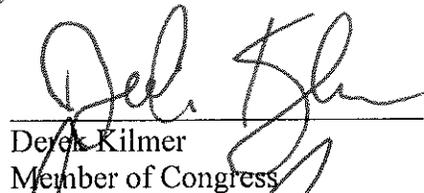
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



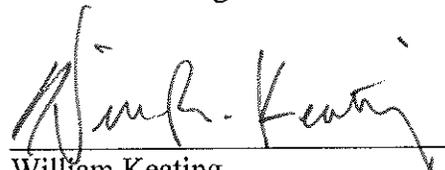
James McGovern
Member of Congress



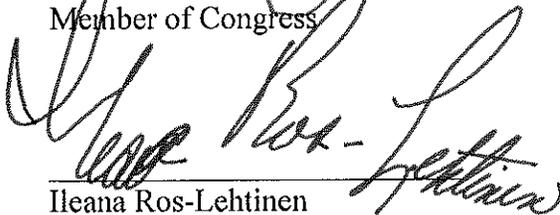
Edward Markey
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



William Keating
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress