

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

As you consider the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, we urge you to provide sufficient funding to allow our nation's Job Corps campuses to meet and sustain their full operational capacity, address inflation and hiring challenges, and address the critical backlog of safety-related facility needs identified by the U.S. Department of Labor.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, [in January](#), there were 7.7 million job openings but only 6.8 million unemployed workers seeking employment. Many of these jobs require training beyond a high school diploma but not a college degree, including those of strategic national importance, such as electricians needed to build data centers to power artificial intelligence, machinists, pipefitters, and welders to manufacture the next generation of submarines, wildland firefighters to keep our communities safe, and nurses to help care for our families. Job Corps is one of the few national programs that fills the gap by recruiting young people who are out of the labor force and providing them with the career and technical education to address these critical workforce needs.

Job Corps has the capacity to serve more than 50,000 out-of-work and out-of-school youth each year. However, this capacity is limited by the same inflationary challenges that have impacted schools nationwide. In December, the Department of Labor paused the operation of several campuses due to insufficient funding. We encourage you to support investments to ensure our local Job Corps campuses can connect as many young Americans as possible with careers. Job Corps FY 2026 appropriations should include resources to improve staff hiring and retention as well as to continue to address the substantial backlog in Job Corps construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition projects identified by the U.S. Department of Labor.

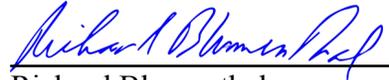
We appreciate your ongoing support of Job Corps and urge you to support our request to provide sufficient funding for Job Corps to fill its beds and classrooms, secure qualified staff, and ensure that all Job Corps facilities are safe. Your support will allow Job Corps to continue its track record of providing highly effective career and technical education to many of the most vulnerable young Americans in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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United States Senator



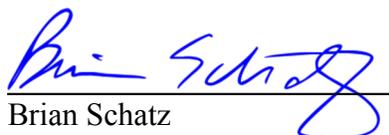
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Kirsten Gillibrand
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Angela Alsobrooks
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Peter Welch
United States Senator



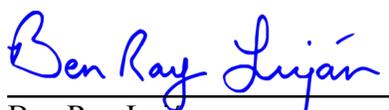
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



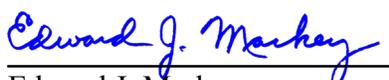
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



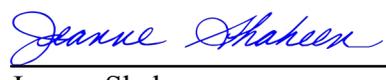
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Amy Klobuchar
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Alex Padilla
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