

4 June 2025

Dear Congressmember,

The proposed elimination of the Job Corps program from the FY2026 budget proposal poses an incredible threat to the safety and security of America's youth and young adults. To protect the thousands of constituents who you serve, **we ask that you take immediate action to restore Job Corps in the FY2026 budget and save this vital program** Your immediate advocacy ensures that **the program receives sufficient funding to maintain operational capacity across our nation's campuses.**

For many students Job Corps is a "game changer" and safe haven. Job Corps has provided residential education and vocational training for students aged 16 to 24. Kaylee Lynch, a 22-year-old student at the San Jose Job Corps Center expressed her fear of homelessness by saying, *"I have a hard background where I was couch-surfing for two years prior to coming to Job Corps. So, for me, it puts me in a mentality of somewhere I don't want to be again."*¹ Her comments reflect her deep anxiety and concern about facing homelessness once more after the sudden closure of the Job Corps center, which provided her with both housing and educational support. Students at the San Jose California center were abruptly informed they must vacate by June 6th, leaving many fearful of homelessness.

With a 60-year history of demonstrating remarkable value and providing life skills for students, Job Corps has a proven record of:

- Significantly increasing participants' employment rates and wages
- Reducing reliance on public benefits
- Providing vital training for in-demand trades and industries

Labor market trends indicate a critical shortage in qualified candidates to fill the jobs of today and the jobs of tomorrow. Job Corps plays an essential role in bridging this gap by providing targeted training for jobs that require skills beyond a high school diploma but not necessarily a college degree.

The program serves as a crucial pathway for At Promise Youth ages 16-24, offering:

- Vocational training in essential trades
- GED and high school diploma completion
- Career readiness skills
- Support services that enable successful transition to the workforce

Eliminating Job Corps would:

- Disrupt the education and training of thousands of young Americans
- Worsen the existing skilled labor shortage
- Remove a proven pathway to economic self-sufficiency for opportunity youth
- Impact communities nationwide that benefit from Job Corps graduates' contributions

¹ NBC Bay Area News Report. Bay Area Students Left Scrambling After Job Corps Operations Suspended, <https://youtu.be/EWvWJBEqsiQ?si=wuOmHwh1PgShxkL>

We strongly urge you to **SAVE JOB CORPS**, oppose any attempts to eliminate the Job Corps program, and ensure Job Corps centers can maintain operational capacity. The success of our economy and the futures of thousands of young Americans depend on the continuation of Job Corps and programs like it.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the Job Corps and this urgent request, please do not hesitate to reach out to the National Job Corps Association ([NJCA](http://njca.org)), Executive Director, Donna Hay at dhay@njcaweb.org or at 202-846-0212.

With high hopes for protecting America's Youth,


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