



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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November 8, 2017

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta
Secretary
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20210-0002

Dear Secretary Acosta:

We are writing to express our concern to recently announced plans to reduce Job Corps slot capacity to 33,532 total student slots in program year (PY) 2017. We are concerned that such a steep reduction of 4,662 training slots (12 percent) relative to PY 2016 – despite the program receiving a 1 percent funding increase in P.L. 115-31, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 – is either unwarranted or indicative of ongoing financial management challenges by the offices administering Job Corps.

The fiscal year 2017 congressional budget justification for Job Corps indicated that the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) required \$1,581,825,000 for Job Corps operations in order to maintain 38,194 student training slots.¹ Based on this request, Job Corps' congressional supporters rallied to ensure Job Corps was provided at least the \$1,581,825,000 in operations funding necessary for Job Corps to serve the same number of students. Ultimately, Congress provided \$1,587,325,000 for Job Corps operations in P.L. 115-31, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 – an increase of \$5.5 million.

We are alarmed that after informing Congress that no cuts would be necessary, the agency is now planning to significantly reduce services to our constituents. Given the similarity to the 2012 enrollment freeze and capacity reductions that resulted from the agency's financial mismanagement of Job Corps' budget, we are gravely concerned.

Section 161(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 requires the Department to submit special financial reports to Congress regarding the Job Corps program. To the best of our knowledge, no such reports have been submitted. Further, Section 161(a)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 requires the Department to submit a financial report explaining how it intends to address a Job Corps budget shortfall if such a

¹ *FY 2017 Congressional Budget Justification, Employment and Training Administration, Job Corps*, p. 20. Accessed at: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/CBJ-2017-V1-05.pdf>.

shortfall is discovered. The Department's plans to cut 12 percent of Job Corps' capacity in order to operate the program at a more 'affordable' level, suggest that such a shortfall has been discovered.² If the agency has discovered such a shortfall based on the FY 2017 appropriation without submitting the required report to Congress, then the agency may be in noncompliance with the statute. If no such shortfall exists, then it would seem these cuts are not needed.

Again, our expectations based on the agency's budget documents is that the resources this Congress provided should be sufficient to maintain the slot capacity of 38,194 that the agency projected. Therefore, we ask that you re-examine the justification for ETA's reduction in Job Corps slot capacity in program year 2017 and provide any information that supports this decision to our offices.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

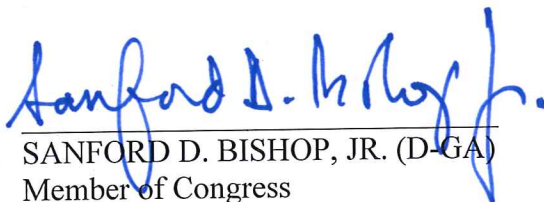
Sincerely,



PETE SESSIONS (R-TX)
Member of Congress



LOU BARLETTA (R-PA)
Member of Congress




SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR. (D-GA)
Member of Congress



ALMA S. ADAMS (D-NC)
Member of Congress



PETE AGUILAR (D-CA)
Member of Congress



NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN (D-CA)
Member of Congress

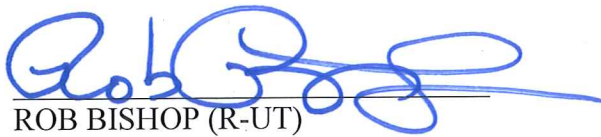


KAREN BASS (D-CA)
Member of Congress



JOYCE BEATTY (D-OH)
Member of Congress

² Jacobs-Simmons, Lenita and Adrienne Young. (U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration). Letter to: William Helin (U.S. Department of Agriculture/U.S. Forest Service Job Corps). July 13, 2017.



ROB BISHOP (R-UT)
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER (D-OR)
Member of Congress



LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER (D-DE)
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI (D-OR)
Member of Congress



ROBERT A. BRADY (D-PA)
Member of Congress



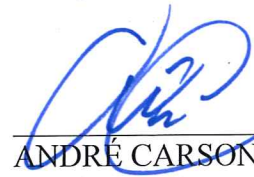
ANTHONY G. BROWN (D-MD)
Member of Congress



G.K. BUTTERFIELD (D-NC)
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. CAPUANO (D-MA)
Member of Congress



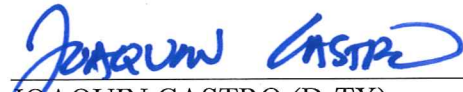
ANDRÉ CARSON (D-IN)
Member of Congress



BUDDY CARTER (R-GA)
Member of Congress



MATT CARTWRIGHT (D-PA)
Member of Congress



JOAQUIN CASTRO (D-TX)
Member of Congress



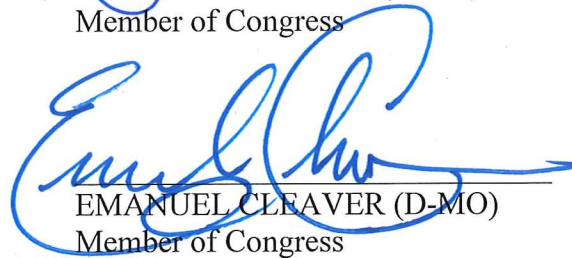
STEVE CHABOT (R-OH)
Member of Congress



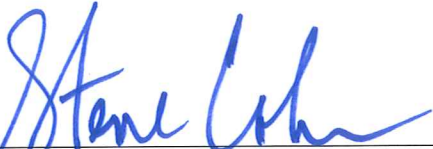
YVETTE D. CLARKE (D-NY)
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WILLIAM LACY CLAY (D-MO)
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER (D-MO)
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STEVE COHEN (D-TN)
Member of Congress



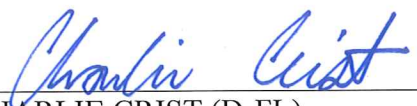
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Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS, JR. (D-MI)
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Member of Congress




DANNY K. DAVIS (D-IL)
Member of Congress



JOHN K. DELANEY (D-MD)
Member of Congress



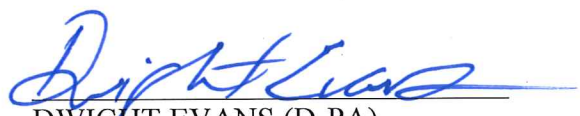
SUZAN K. DELBENE (D-WA)
Member of Congress



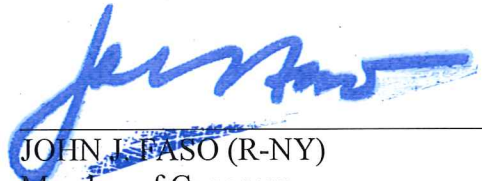
MICHAEL F. DOYLE (D-PA)
Member of Congress



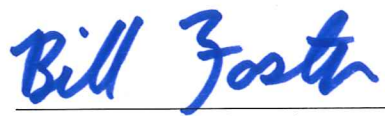
KEITH ELLISON (D-MN)
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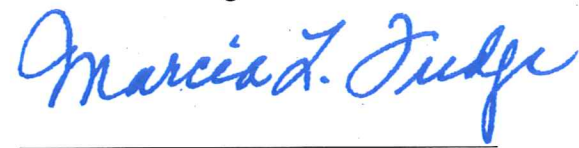
DWIGHT EVANS (D-PA)
Member of Congress



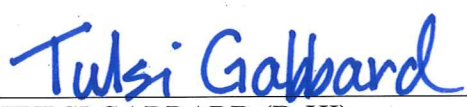
JOHN J. FASO (R-NY)
Member of Congress



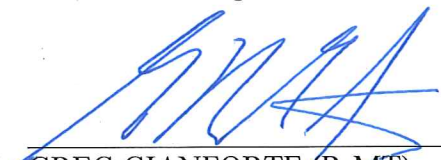
BILL FOSTER (D-IL)
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

WILL HURD (R-TX)
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Member of Congress

BOB GOODLATTE (R-VA)
Member of Congress

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH (R-VA)
Member of Congress

COLLEEN HANABUSA (D-HI)
Member of Congress

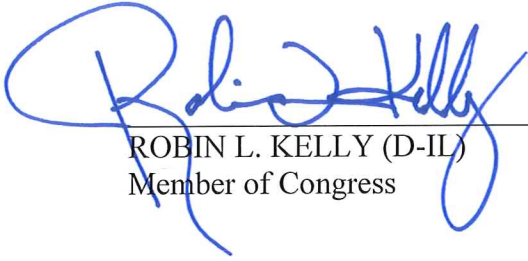
TREY HOLLINGSWORTH (R-IN)
Member of Congress

SHELIA JACKSON LEE (D-TX)
Member of Congress

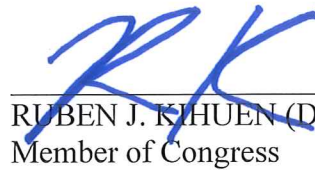
EVAN H. JENKINS (R-WV)
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HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. (D-GA)
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WILLIAM R. KEATING (D-MA)
Member of Congress



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RUBEN J. KIHUEN (D-NV)
Member of Congress



DANIEL T. KILDEE (D-MI)
Member of Congress



ANN M. KUSTER (D-NH)
Member of Congress



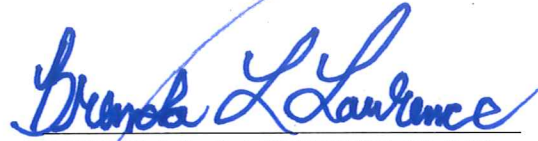
JAMES R. LANGEVIN (D-RI)
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN (D-WA)
Member of Congress



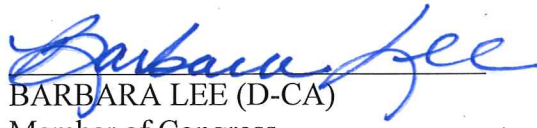
JOHN B. LARSON (D-CT)
Member of Congress



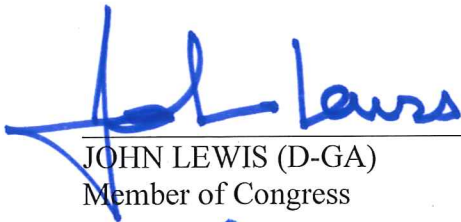
BRENDA L. LAWRENCE (D-MI)
Member of Congress



AL LAWSON, JR. (D-FL)
Member of Congress



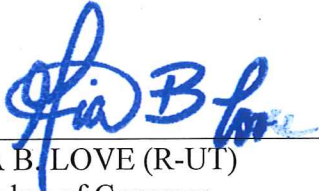
BARBARA LEE (D-CA)
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



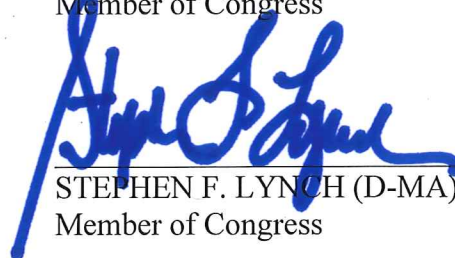
MIA B. LOVE (R-UT)
Member of Congress



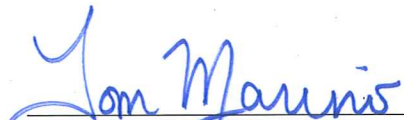
ALAN LOWENTHAL (D-CA)
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Member of Congress




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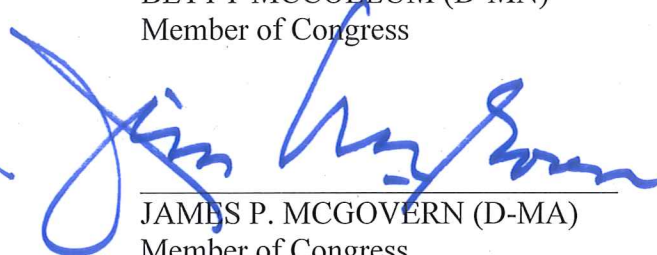

TOM MARINO (R-PA)
Member of Congress

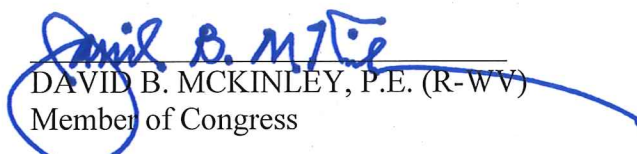

ROGER MARSHALL, M.D. (R-KS)
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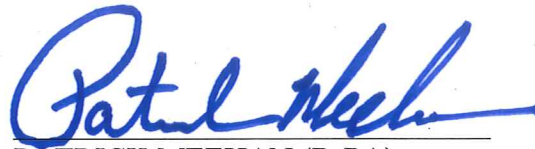

DORIS MATSUI (D-CA)
Member of Congress

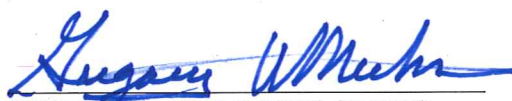

BETTY MCCOLLUM (D-MN)
Member of Congress

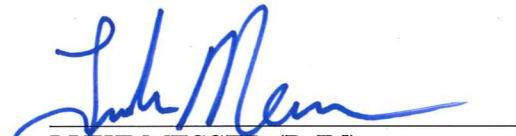

A. DONALD MCEACHIN (D-VA)
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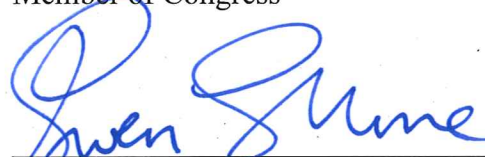

DAVID B. MCKINLEY, P.E. (R-WV)
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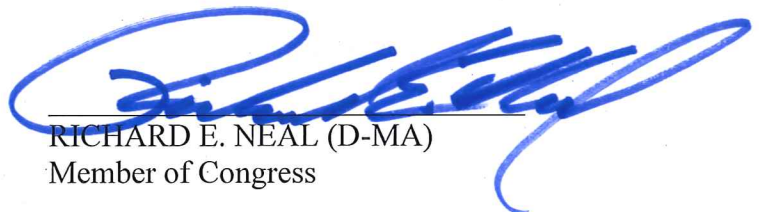

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Member of Congress



ALEXANDER X. MOONEY (R-WV)
Member of Congress

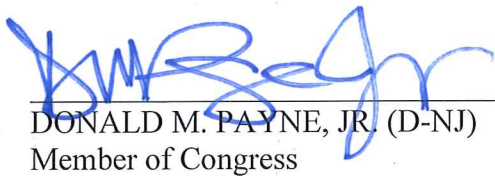

GWEN MOORE (D-WI)
Member of Congress

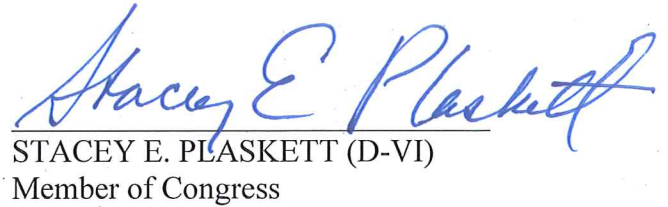

SETH MOULTON (D-MA)
Member of Congress

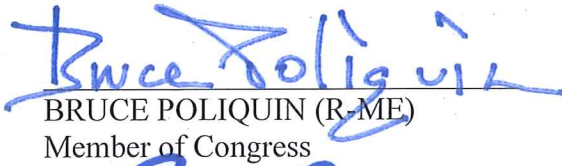

RICHARD E. NEAL (D-MA)
Member of Congress


DAN NEWHOUSE (R-WA)
Member of Congress

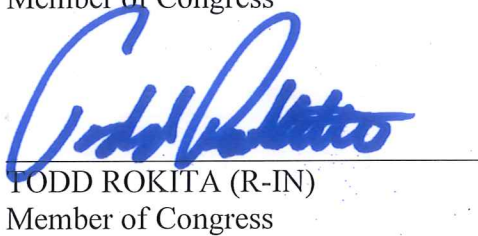

BETO O'ROURKE (D-TX)
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Member of Congress

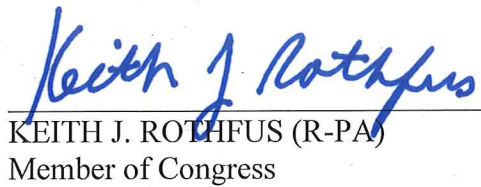

STACEY E. PLASKETT (D-VI)
Member of Congress


BRUCE POLIQUIN (R-ME)
Member of Congress

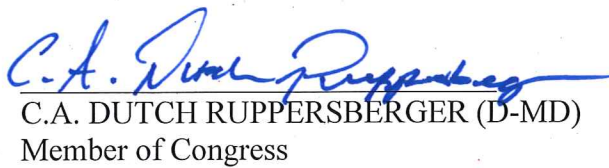

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND (D-LA)
Member of Congress

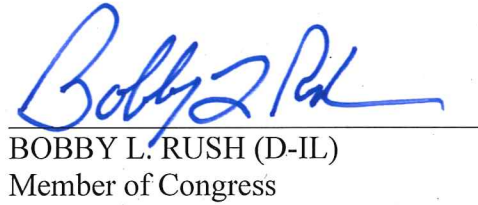

TODD ROKITA (R-IN)
Member of Congress

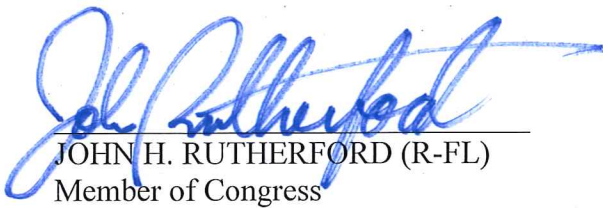

JACKY ROSEN (D-NV)
Member of Congress

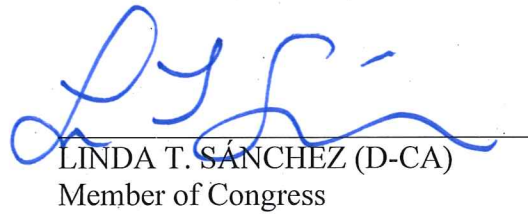

KEITH J. ROTHFUS (R-PA)
Member of Congress

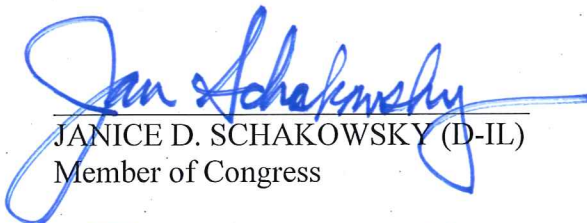

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD (D-CA)
Member of Congress

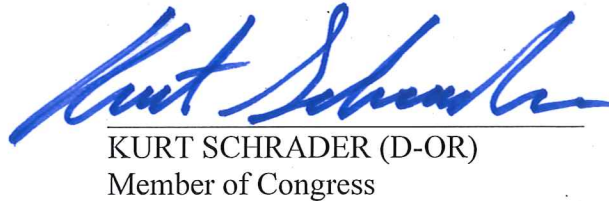

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER (D-MD)
Member of Congress


BOBBY L. RUSH (D-IL)
Member of Congress


JOHN H. RUTHERFORD (R-FL)
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY (D-IL)
Member of Congress


KURT SCHRADER (D-OR)
Member of Congress


DAVID SCOTT (D-GA)
Member of Congress


ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT (D-VA)
Member of Congress

TERRI A. SEWELL

TERRI A. SEWELL (D-AL)
Member of Congress

CAROL SHEA-PORTER

CAROL SHEA-PORTER (D-NH)
Member of Congress

LAMAR SMITH

LAMAR SMITH (R-TX)
Member of Congress

CHRIS STEWART

CHRIS STEWART (R-UT)
Member of Congress

BENNIE G. THOMPSON

BENNIE G. THOMPSON (D-MS)
Member of Congress

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DINA TITUS (D-NV)
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PAUL TONKO (D-NY)
Member of Congress

NORMA J. TORRES

NORMA J. TORRES (D-CA)
Member of Congress

NIKI TSONGAS

NIKI TSONGAS (D-MA)
Member of Congress

MARC A. VEASEY

MARC A. VEASEY (D-TX)
Member of Congress

FILEMON VELA

FILEMON VELA (D-TX)
Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL)
Member of Congress

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN (D-NJ)
Member of Congress

FREDERICA S. WILSON

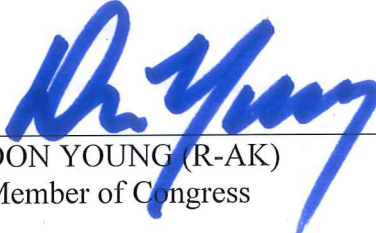
FREDERICA S. WILSON (D-FL)
Member of Congress

JOHN A. YARMUTH

JOHN A. YARMUTH (D-KY)
Member of Congress

KEVIN YODER

KEVIN YODER (R-KS)
Member of Congress


DON YOUNG (R-AK)
Member of Congress