

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 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 write to urge the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to terminate its proposal to reduce On Board Strength (OBS) and instead use the transfer authority contained in the Fiscal Year 2013 Continuing Appropriations Act, H.R. 933, to address its current budget shortfall. Further, we request that ETA use the cost reduction targets that Job Corps center operators have suggested, and implement an expedited contract modification process. ETA should consider all options and alternatives before suspending enrollments or reducing the capacity of Job Corps centers.

As you know, Job Corps stopped admitting new students on January 28, 2013. According to ETA, the temporary suspension of weekly student enrollments was implemented to address an operational funding shortfall, representing 4 percent of Job Corps' operational budget. Since the suspension has been in place, more than 10,000 students have been denied entrance into the program, and hundreds of staff members have been laid off. Nearly 28,000 students will be unable to participate, and 10,000 staff will lose their jobs if the suspension lasts through the end of the program year (PY).

On March 25, 2013, ETA announced that it will reduce the number of slots at its Job Corps centers to align operations with current and projected funding levels and to lift the temporary suspension of new student enrollments. We believe a reduction in OBS should not be necessary to end the temporary suspension, given the passage of H.R. 933, which requires the transfer of as much as \$30 million to Job Corps to ensure the program's solvency. We hope ETA will immediately lift the enrollment suspension without reducing slots at Job Corps centers.

In addition to the transfer authority provided by H.R. 933, Job Corps center operators have committed to meet the PY 2012 cost reduction targets identified by ETA to save additional funds for the program. We urge you to expedite this process so that the funds can be recouped and used to avoid further cuts in student services in PY 2012.

With the unemployment rate at 16.3 percent for youths ages 16-24, ETA's priority should be to ensure Job Corps successfully serves as many students as possible. We ask you to use both the transfer authority provided under H.R. 933 and Job Corps center operator's suggestions during the contract modification process to address Job Corps' fiscal stability and end its temporary suspension of student enrollments.

A reduction in OBS and other deleterious options should not be considered.

Sincerely,


Marcia L. Fudge



Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

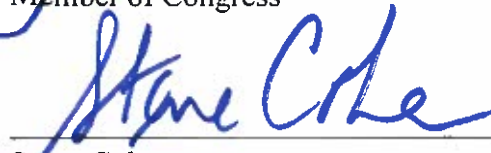

G.K. Butterfield, Jr.
Member of Congress


Andre Carson
Member of Congress


Matt Cartwright
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Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress


William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

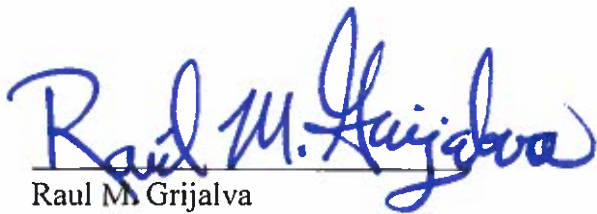

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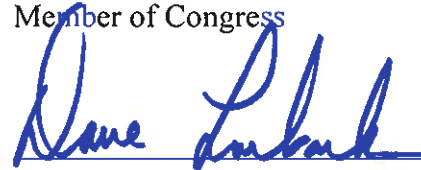
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



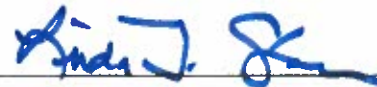
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



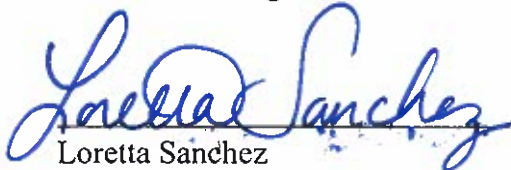
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



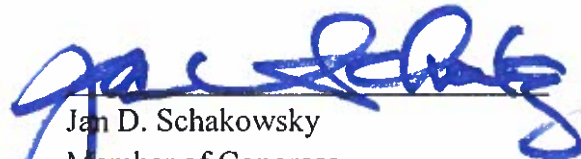
Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress



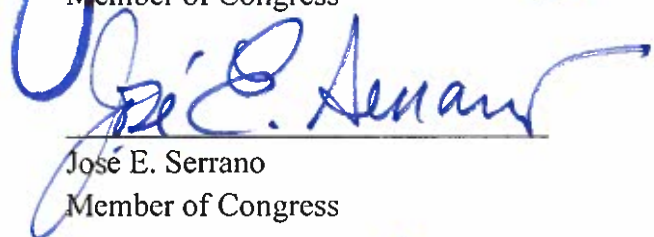
Loretta Sanchez
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David Scott
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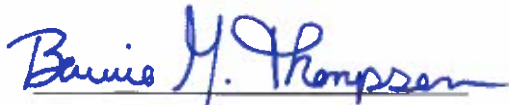
Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



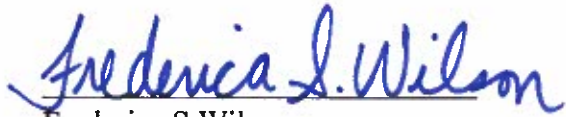
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress




Mark Takano
Member of Congress

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Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederica S. Wilson". The signature is cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Whitfield". The signature is cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress