

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
500 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We write to express our strong support for the New Hampshire Job Corps Center and encourage you to find a sustainable, long-term solution to keep the center open. It is essential that the center is able to continue providing students with critical workforce training that leads to in-demand careers. The New Hampshire Job Corps Center is essential to the state's economy with an estimated economic impact of more than \$21 million per year. The center's closure would have a grave and lasting impact on the state's economic growth and workforce pipeline.

At a time when we are facing workforce shortages across the country, the Job Corps program is needed more than ever, and we respectfully request that you allow Jobs Corps to continue playing its vital role in training and placing students in critical and fast-growing sectors. As you know, the majority of Job Corps students do not have a high school diploma, and more than 30 percent have a diagnosed disability. Indeed, since Congress established Job Corps in 1964, the program has trained and educated more than two million low-income individuals between the ages of 16 and 24. This program changes lives by helping individuals gain in-demand skills that lead to good paying jobs and there are few alternatives that match Job Corps' record of success with this population.

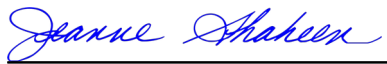
In New Hampshire, the Manchester Job Corps Center serves up to 268 residential and 32 non-residential students. It provides vocational training in nine trades, along with a high school equivalency program, two online high school diploma options and opportunities for concurrent enrollment with local high schools. Students can also pursue college certifications and degrees through partnerships with Manchester Community College, Nashua Community College and the New Hampshire Technical Institute. The Manchester Job Corps Center also has a long history of partnering with employers in critical industries, including the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, advanced manufacturers and other businesses that are critical to our defense industrial base.

In May 2025, your department abruptly "paused" operations at Job Corps centers nationwide, wreaking havoc on Job Corps students and communities committed to their success. To justify this decision, your department cited findings from the newly created Job Corps Transparency Report (JCTR). However, analysis has shown some of the report's findings may be misleading or inaccurate. For example, the JCTR underreports the number of graduates by roughly 5.5 percent

nationally and thus overestimates the cost per graduate. In particular, the highest cost figures were collected while Job Corps participation was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: graduates of program year (PY) 23 are reflective of operations in PY22, which began with just 34 percent student capacity/utilization. In April 2025, this number was up to 75 percent. Significant Incident Report numbers also include reported COVID cases and minor infractions such as use of profanity, and tardiness, which inflate the total.

Given the vital role that Job Corps plays in New Hampshire and throughout the country, we respectfully urge you to reconsider your pause of Job Corps operations and cease efforts to eliminate the program. We have a shared interest in improving outcomes for Job Corps students, prioritizing their safety, and preventing any waste that may exist in the Job Corps program, and we urge you to work with Congress to advance these goals. Attempting to unilaterally dismantle the program, however, is not in the best interest of students or taxpayers and only causes harm to communities. We encourage the department to work hand in hand with Congress and Job Corps operators in New Hampshire and nationwide to address your concerns while continuing to support this essential workforce development program.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress