



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Education,
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office
Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We write in strong support of the Department of Labor YouthBuild program and respectfully request that you provide ample funding sufficient to meet demand for this critical program in the fiscal year 2020 (FY20) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

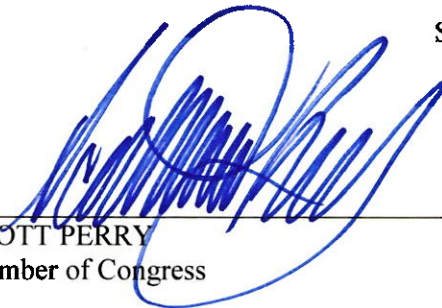
Our nation's ability to reconnect unemployed and undereducated young adults is essential to our economic success. YouthBuild engages disadvantaged, low-income youth in a full-time program emphasizing education and hands-on job training. The program accompanies these initiatives with personal counseling, mentoring, leadership development, and service opportunities for the participants.

While earning a high school diploma or equivalent, YouthBuild students build affordable housing for homeless and low-income people and train for jobs in growing sectors like healthcare, technology, and customer service. Local programs are required to raise a 25 percent non-federal match, which leverages private funds to maximize YouthBuild's impact. Since federal funding began in fiscal year 1993, more than 180,000 YouthBuild students in 46 states participated in the programs, built more than 35,000 units of affordable housing, and performed nearly 50 million hours of community service.

The Department of Labor manages this program with heavy focus on performance, providing ample evidence that YouthBuild works. A recent rigorous, randomized multi-year study found that, compared with their peers who received alternative services, YouthBuild students earn more GEDs, enroll in college and vocational school in higher numbers, and go on to earn roughly 20 percent higher salaries in their careers.

We believe these strong results merit continuing federal investment in the DOL YouthBuild program to meet demand. As always, we appreciate your consideration of our request and thank you for your previous support of YouthBuild's work and mission.

Sincerely,



SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress




RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



KEVIN BRADY
Member of Congress



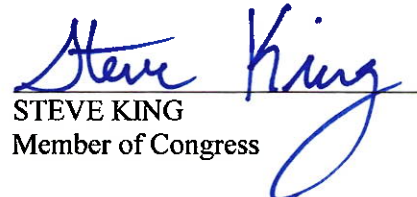
JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



MICHAEL R. TURNER
Member of Congress



TED S. YOH O DVM
Member of Congress



STEVE KING
Member of Congress



EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress



GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress



DARIN LAHOOD
Member of Congress




STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



FRED UPTON
Member of Congress



GLENN "GT" THOMPSON
Member of Congress



RALPH ABRAHAM, M.D.
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



ALEX MOONEY
Member of Congress



TIM BURCHETT
Member of Congress



RALPH NORMAN
Member of Congress




VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



JOHN JOYCE, M.D.
Member of Congress



PETE STAUBER
Member of Congress



LLOYD SMUCKER
Member of Congress



TOM EMMER
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress