

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
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, Education, 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 no less than \$127.5 million for this critical program in the fiscal year 2021 (FY21) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Our nation's success depends on successfully reconnecting unemployed and undereducated young people. YouthBuild engages disadvantaged, low-income youth in a full-time program emphasizing education and hands-on job training. In addition, the program offers personal counseling, mentoring, leadership development, and service opportunities for participants.

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

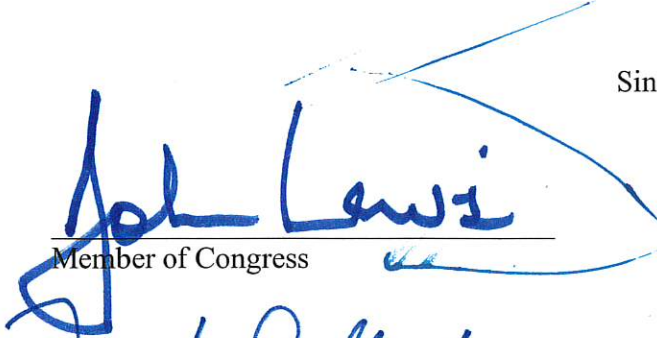
The Department of Labor manages this program with a heavy focus on performance, and significant evidence shows that YouthBuild works. A recent study found that, compared with their peers, YouthBuild students earn more GEDs, enroll in college and vocational school in higher numbers, and go on to earn roughly 20 percent higher salaries in their careers.

Continued federal support for this effective, strategic investment would allow the Department of Labor to sustain current grantees and fund new programs to meet demand. Nearly 4.5 million young people, aged 16 to 24, are not in school or employed. Each year, there are more communities applying to host YouthBuild sites and young people aspiring to join the program than the Department can afford to support. The requested funding would ensure that participants receive the support they need to become skilled, educated, and service-oriented workers.

We believe that these strong results merit the continued, robust federal investment in the YouthBuild Program. Last year, the House-passed bill included the requested \$127.5 million, which would have restored funding to the level appropriated in fiscal year 2010. The final, enacted appropriations package provided a smaller funding increase of \$94.5 million. This year, we hope that the Subcommittee will again restore the full \$127.5 million in the FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As always, we appreciate your consideration of this request and thank you for your continued support of YouthBuild's work and mission.

Sincerely,



Bob Lewis

Member of Congress



Steve Cohen

Member of Congress



Frank Pallone

Member of Congress



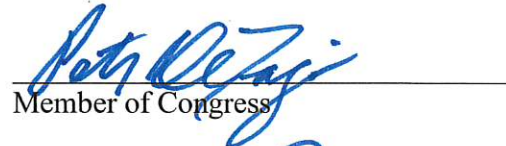
W. H. C. A.

Member of Congress



A. E.

Member of Congress



Bob DeZugli

Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis

Member of Congress



Chellu R.

Member of Congress



Peter E. Welch

Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan

Member of Congress



J. RAQUIN CASTRO

Member of Congress



Juan Vargas

Member of Congress



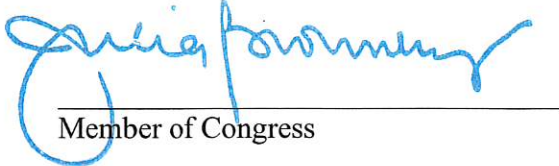
Hank Johnson

Member of Congress



Albio Sires

Member of Congress



Eric Swalley

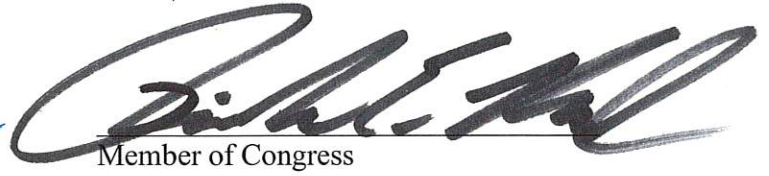
Member of Congress



Jerry McNamara

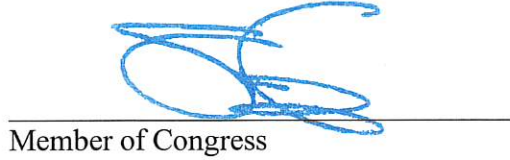
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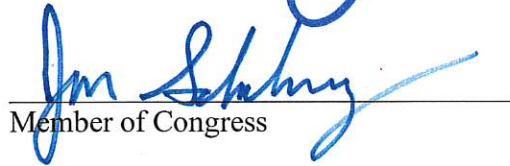

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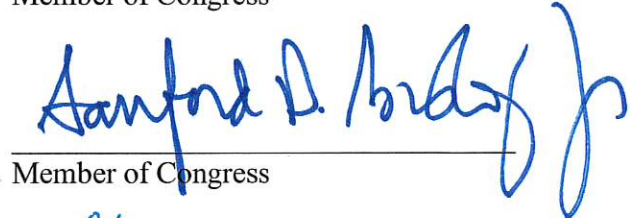

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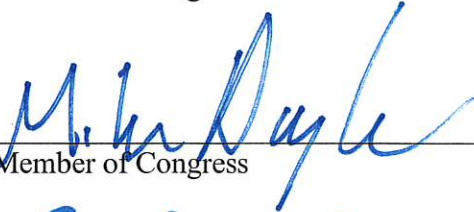

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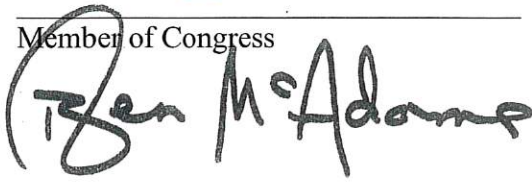

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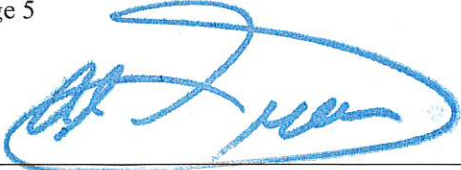

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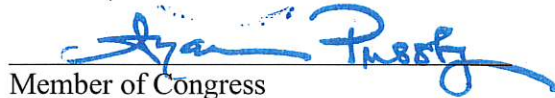
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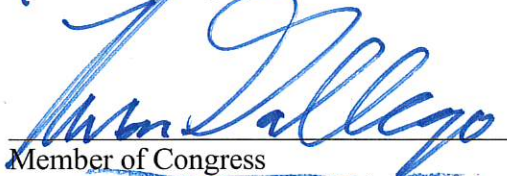
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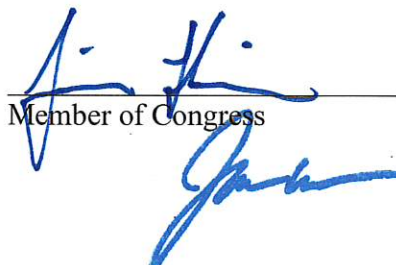
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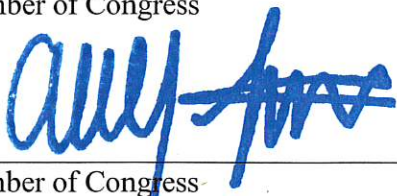


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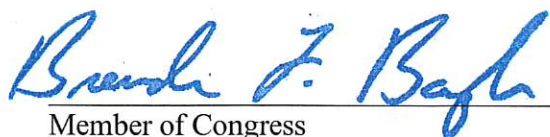
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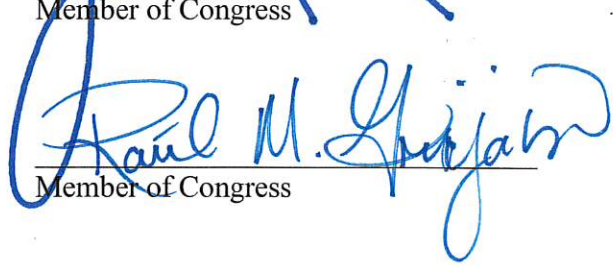
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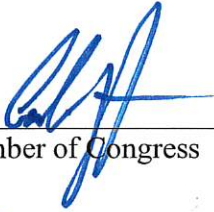
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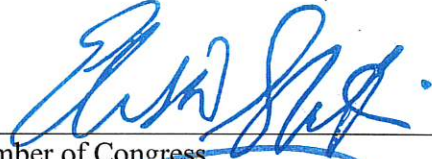
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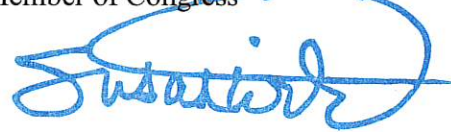
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Rashida Hall

Member of Congress



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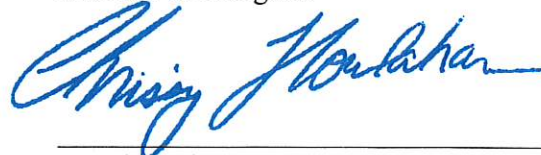
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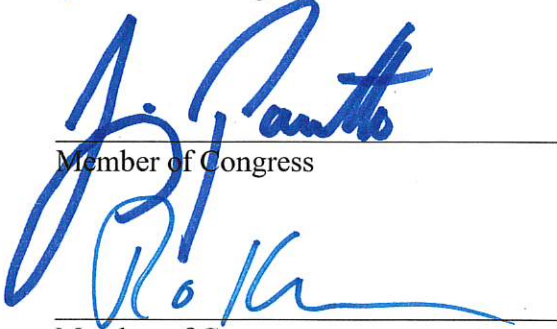
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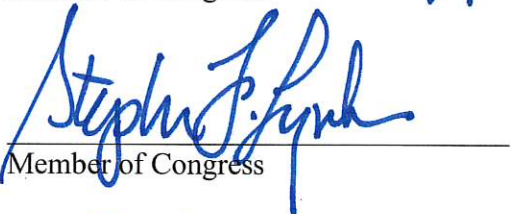
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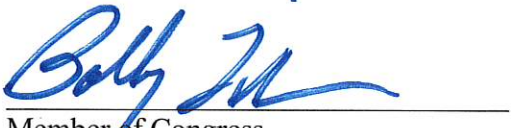
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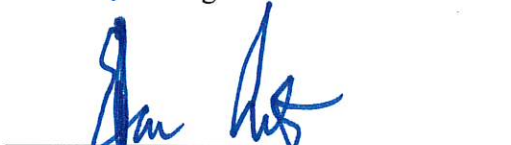
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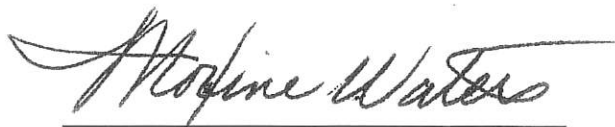
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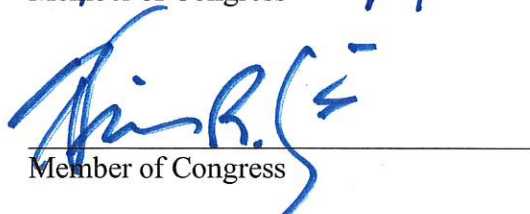

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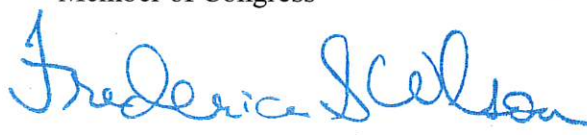

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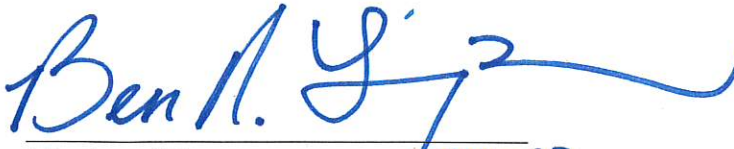

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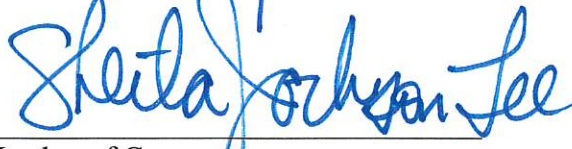

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Chairwoman DeLauro
Ranking Member Cole
March 13, 2020
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Lujan", written in a cursive style.

Member of Congress

Chairwoman DeLauro
Ranking Member Cole
March 13, 2020
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Chairwoman DeLauro
Ranking Member Cole
March 13, 2020
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Member of Congress

List of Members Signing

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The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable André Carson
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
The Honorable Danny K. Davis
The Honorable Chellie Pingree
The Honorable Peter Welch
The Honorable Gwen Moore
The Honorable Joaquin Castro
The Honorable Juan Vargas
The Honorable Henry C. "Hank"
Johnson, Jr.
The Honorable Albio Sires
The Honorable Julia Brownley
The Honorable Jerry McNerney

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The Honorable David N. Cicilline
The Honorable Richard E. Neal
The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez
The Honorable Joyce Beatty
The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
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The Honorable Bill Foster
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
The Honorable John Garamendi
The Honorable Barbara Lee
The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
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The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett
The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks

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The Honorable Adam Smith
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The Honorable Cynthia Axne
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The Honorable Anthony Brindisi
The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
The Honorable Jamie Raskin
The Honorable James P. McGovern
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The Honorable Kim Schrier
The Honorable Seth Moulton
The Honorable Ruben Gallego
The Honorable Cheri Bustos
The Honorable Debra A. Haaland
The Honorable Jared F. Golden
The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle
The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
The Honorable Jahana Hayes
The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal
The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
The Honorable Veronica Escobar

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The Honorable Chris Pappas
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The Honorable Haley M. Stevens
The Honorable James A. Himes
The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-
Cortez
The Honorable Jason Crow
The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
The Honorable Abigail D. Spanberger
The Honorable Debbie Mucarsel-
Powell
The Honorable Angie Craig

The Honorable Dwight Evans
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The Honorable Lucy McBath
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The Honorable Conor Lamb
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The Honorable Ron Kind
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The Honorable Andy Kim
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The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
The Honorable Sharice Davids
The Honorable Susan Wild
The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
The Honorable Lori Trahan
The Honorable Rashida Tlaib
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
The Honorable TJ Cox
The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan
The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
The Honorable Steven Horsford

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The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
The Honorable Antonio Delgado
The Honorable Sylvia R. Garcia
The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
The Honorable Filemon Vela
The Honorable Daniel T. Kildee
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
The Honorable Val Butler Demings
The Honorable Ro Khanna
The Honorable David Scott
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
The Honorable Brian Higgins
The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
The Honorable Kathy Castor
The Honorable Jim Costa
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson

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The Honorable Maxine Waters
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The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
The Honorable William R. Keating
The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
The Honorable Denny Heck
The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
The Honorable Jackie Speier
The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
The Honorable Judy Chu
The Honorable Alma S. Adams
The Honorable Tom Malinowski
The Honorable Sean Casten
The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond
The Honorable Karen Bass

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The Honorable G. K. Butterfield
The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.
The Honorable Donald Norcross
The Honorable Harley Rouda
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler

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The Honorable Brad Sherman

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The Honorable Robin L. Kelly

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The Honorable Susie Lee

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2020

Hon. Rosa L. DeLauro, Chairwoman
Sub. on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Sub. on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 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 FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Existing local YouthBuild programs turn away three or four youth for every participant they are able to enroll. In addition, each year, the Department of Labor receives many more applications from communities than it can fund.

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 that emphasizes 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% non-federal match, which leverages private funds to maximize YouthBuild's impact. Since federal funding began in FY93, more than 180,000 YouthBuild students in 46 states participated in the programs, built more than 39,000 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.

Additional federal support for this effective, strategic investment is very much needed. An ample FY21 appropriation will allow the Department to provide adequate support for current grantees and fund new programs where the great need is unmet. The requested funding would address the fact that over 4 million unemployed young people,

who are not enrolled in an educational program, need support, training, and resources to thrive and succeed as skilled, educated, and service-oriented members of our Nation's workforce.

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

Very Respectfully,



SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress



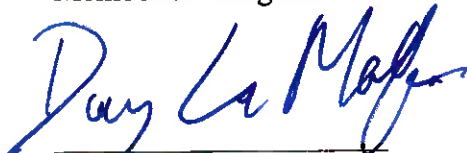
VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



RALPH NORMAN
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress



STEVE KING
Member of Congress



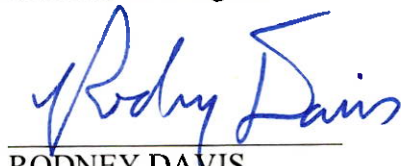
MICHAEL R. TURNER
Member of Congress



DON BACON
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



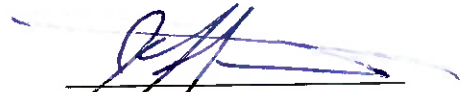
RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress



JOHN JOYCE, M.D.
Member of Congress



FRANK D. LUCAS
Member of Congress



JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congress



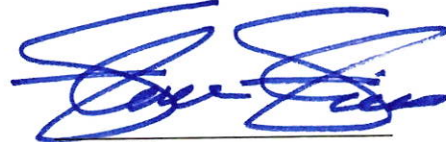
ROB BISHOP
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress



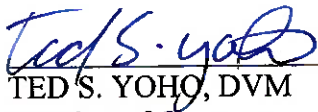
STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



GLENN "GT" THOMPSON
Member of Congress



TED S. YOHO, DVM
Member of Congress



ROSS SPANO
Member of Congress



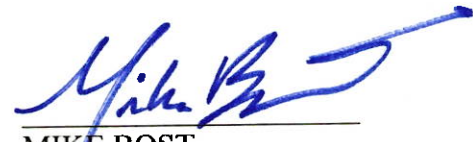
DARIN LAHOOD
Member of Congress



RALPH ABRAHAM, M.D.
Member of Congress



WILLIAM TIMMONS
Member of Congress



MIKE BOST
Member of Congress



PETE STAUBER
Member of Congress



FRED UPTON
Member of Congress



TIM BURCHETT
Member of Congress



LLOYD SMUCKER
Member of Congress



TOM EMMER
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

We write to express our strong support for the U.S. Department of Labor's YouthBuild program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill. We appreciate your support for increased funding in the final FY2020 appropriation, and respectfully request that you continue to provide increased funding sufficient to meet demand for this important program. There are three times more applicants than capacity in the program to fulfill these requests, indicating the significant need for additional federal support for this critical program.

Our nation's ability to reconnect unemployed and undereducated young adults is essential to our economic success. YouthBuild focuses on achieving this critical task. Young people between the ages of 16 and 24, who left high school without a diploma, apply and enroll in YouthBuild for an average of 10 months. This evidence-based model includes an equal division between helping participants earn their high school diploma or equivalent and teaching job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people in their communities. In addition to construction, some young people train for jobs in other growing sectors, such as healthcare, technology, and customer service.

Since YouthBuild began as a federal program in 1992, over 180,000 YouthBuild students in 44 states have built nearly 39,000 units of affordable housing in their communities and performed more than 49.5 million hours of community service. The U.S. Department of Labor manages this program with a heavy focus on data and performance, which has ensured YouthBuild delivers real results for its participants. In fact, a recent multi-year, randomized controlled trial study demonstrated that YouthBuild students achieve 47 percent more GED attainment, 52 percent greater vocational school enrollment, 24 percent more college enrollment, and roughly 20 percent greater earnings, even when compared to highly motivated youth receiving other services.

In America today, there are over 4 million young adults, between the ages of 16 and 24, who are not in school or work. An estimated 2 million of these young people have grown up in poverty and in under-resourced communities of all kinds across urban, rural, and tribal areas of the country.

Given this significant need, demand for YouthBuild greatly exceeds federally funded available placements through the program. Many strong local sponsors in our states apply to launch or continue YouthBuild programs but there is insufficient funding to support these critical local efforts.

We strongly believe that increased funding to meet the demand for YouthBuild is an effective, strategic investment in putting the nation's disconnected youth on a path to success while building an educated, connected, and skilled workforce. For this reason, we request that the Committee provide sufficient funding for the Department of Labor YouthBuild program to meet the continued and growing need for its services.

As always, we appreciate your consideration of our request, and thank you for your previous support of YouthBuild's work and mission.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/ s / John Cornyn

John Cornyn
United States Senator

/ s / Tom Udall

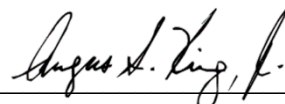
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

/ s / Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/ s / Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/ s / Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/ s / Christopher S. Murphy

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

/ s / Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/ s / Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator

/ s / Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



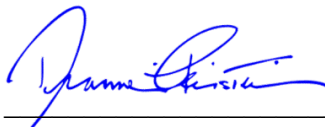
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/ s / Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/ s / Gary C. Peters

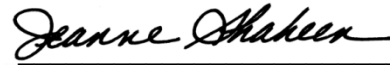
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/ s / Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

/ s / Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



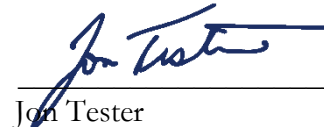
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

/ s / Mazie K. Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/ s / Jack Reed

Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



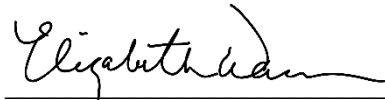
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

/ s / Thomas R. Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/ s / Catherine Cortez Masto

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/ s / Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/ s / Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

/ s / Richard J. Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/ s / Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/ s / Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

/ s / Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

/ s / Mike Crapo

Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/ s / Martin Heinrich

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

/ s / Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/ s / Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/ s / Kamala D. Harris

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

/ s / Martha McSally

Martha McSally
United States Senator

/ s / David A. Perdue

David A. Perdue
United States Senator