

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 9, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Secretary of Labor  
US Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20210

**RE: The Pausing of Job Corps Center Operations in Massachusetts and Across the Country by 6/30**

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer,

We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the Department of Labor's recent decision to pause operations at Job Corps centers across the country. We urge you to consider the long-standing value and potential of the Job Corps program in offering young people a critical second chance at personal and professional success.

The Shriver Job Corps Center in Devens, Massachusetts is a powerful example of the meaningful impact this program can have. Located on the grounds of the former Fort Devens military base, Shriver employs 120 people and serves approximately 450 students each year with 272 students currently living on campus. The center offers nine career technical training areas, two advanced training trades, a GED program, and college credit opportunities through partnerships with Mount Wachusett Community College. Additionally, students engage in community service with organizations like Loaves and Fishes and Habitat for Humanity and gain hands-on experience with local employers including Microsoft, Subaru, Amtrak, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, and Ayer Valley Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. Shriver's courses adapt to meet regional industry demand and offer direct pathways to gainful employment upon graduation, often with the center's employer partners.

The Grafton Job Corps Center in North Grafton, Massachusetts, is another strong example of the critical role this program plays in youth workforce development. Grafton employs 120 staff and serves approximately 350 students each year, including 206 current residential students. The center offers eight career technical training programs, High School Equivalency and online high school diploma programs, and college courses through Quinsigamond Community College. Students contribute meaningfully to the community through partnerships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Massachusetts State Police, while also gaining valuable work experience with local employers such as UMass Memorial Health, Wirefab, Prime Metals, and Northeast Security Solutions. With programming that is aligned with both local labor needs and higher education pathways, Grafton Job Corps provides its students with a vital opportunity to build a more stable and successful future.

The Westover Job Corps Center in Chicopee, Massachusetts, serves as a vital institution for youth workforce development in Western Massachusetts. The center supports 177 employees and over 600 students a year with 352 current students. It offers 14 comprehensive vocational training programs in fields such as culinary arts, automotive repair, plumbing, bricklaying, and welding. Westover also receives students from across the country for its advanced HVAC training program. Through its Advanced Career Training program, Westover has established partnerships with local institutions like Springfield Technical Community College, enabling students to pursue higher education credits. Beyond academics, Westover students actively engage in community service initiatives, notably collaborating with Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity on projects such as the Veterans Build program, which assists local veterans with home repairs. Together, these efforts make the Westover Job Corps Center a driving force for economic growth by preparing a skilled local workforce to fulfill the needs of regional industries.

With 92,000 Massachusetts residents aged 18 to 24 living in poverty, the Shriver, Grafton, and Westover Job Corps Centers stand as vital resources for economic mobility and career development. Combined, they contribute an estimated \$80 million to the local economy annually and across the state, we have seen the impact. Graduates have become union carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers, police officers, cybersecurity professionals, and entrepreneurs. This is not just an investment in the local talent pipeline for employers but an investment in our communities as many of these graduates stay in the region to live, work, and raise their families. Pausing operations at these centers at the end of the month will directly detract from workforce training and discourage economic development in communities across the country like Devens, North Grafton, and Chicopee.

The Job Corps program has historically provided transformative opportunities for youth who face significant barriers to employment. Dismantling its infrastructure could close a door for thousands of young adults who may have no other pathway to stable, good-paying careers. Instead of phasing out these centers and displacing the residential students, we encourage a renewed investment in the program to improve outcomes. By prioritizing accountability, student safety, and career alignment, the Department can improve the program while preserving the core mission of Job Corps: to help young people build a better life through education, training, and community support.

The Job Corps program is built on second chances, and we urge you to offer this program the same opportunity to adapt and grow that it has provided its students for the last 60 years. Thank you for your continued commitment to youth workforce development and your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



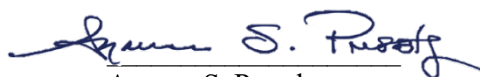
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



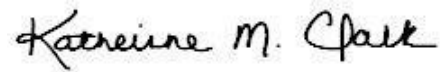
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



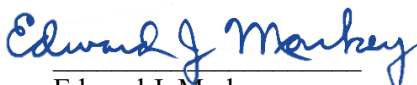
Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



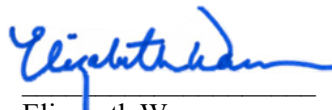
Ayanna S. Pressley  
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark  
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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator