
To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center and in opposition to the President's fiscal year 2026 budget proposal to eliminate Job Corps and the recent halt on required background checks for prospective students that has left over 12,000 young men and women in limbo and their careers on hold. **I respectfully request that you reach out to the U.S. Department of Labor and White House immediately and demand they resume enrollments and continue to fund Job Corps.**

As a staff member of the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps, I've seen firsthand how this program transforms lives—not just for students, but for entire communities.

I've met young people who arrived without a high school diploma or a stable home, and who are now certified Chefs, Office Administrators, Carpenters, Construction Technology, Security Officers, Nurses and Medical Administrators, employed full-time, and contributing members of our local economy. Just last month, Ideah Brown, certified as a Medical Administrative Assistant and Certified Nursing Assistant, is working as a Nursing Assistant in South Bend, IN with Majestic Care of South Bend.

The Gerald R. Ford Job Corps serves 212 students annually and employs 112 staff. It brings millions of federal dollars into the state while preparing the next generation of skilled workers in high-demand industries.

Please reach out to both the U.S. Department of Labor and White House immediately and push them to enroll new students and fund the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps. My livelihood and dozens of my colleagues depends on it.

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of Job Corps, our community, and your constituents.

Respectfully,
Chaka Payne
