

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
SECOND DISTRICT, GEORGIA



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE

DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION/VA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2429 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1002
PHONE: (202) 225-3631
FAX: (202) 225-2203

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1002

January 15, 2013

DISTRICT OFFICES:

ALBANY

235 ROOSEVELT AVENUE
ALBANY TOWERS, SUITE 114
ALBANY, GA 31701
PHONE: (229) 439-8067
FAX: (229) 436-2089

COLUMBUS

18 NINTH STREET, SUITE 201
COLUMBUS, GA 31901
PHONE: (706) 320-9477
FAX: (706) 320-9479

THOMASVILLE

137 EAST JACKSON STREET
THOMASVILLE, GA 31792
PHONE: (229) 226-7789
FAX: (229) 226-7860

The Honorable Hilda Solis
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

I am writing to express my concern about the Department of Labor's (DOL) proposal to temporarily cut nearly 3,200 students slots at seven Job Corps centers across the country through June, 30, 2013. Approximately 400 student slots (or 43%) at the Albany-based Turner Job Corps Center, which is located in Georgia's Second Congressional District, could be eliminated. In addition, as many as 140 local staff could be laid off as a result if this action.

I understand the challenging fiscal environment and the DOL's need to balance its budget. Nevertheless, this proposal would have severe and adverse consequences on the at-risk youth served by the Turner Job Corps Center. It ultimately would deprive the disadvantaged youth of Albany and its surrounding communities of the opportunity to become productive as well as taxpaying members of society.

These proposed severe cuts to the Turner Job Corps Centers would be detrimental to students and have a significant negative impact on staff and our local economies. It makes little sense to institute these spending reductions as Albany and its surrounding areas are still struggling to recover from unprecedented unemployment and economic instability.

I strongly urge the DOL to consider several cost-saving alternatives that have been proposed by leading Job Corps stakeholders to address the estimated \$59 million Program Year 2012 shortfall. Some alternatives include:

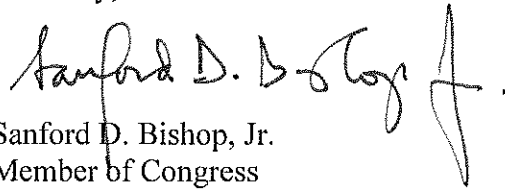
- Recapturing current under runs at all centers (estimated savings \$22-27 million);
- Reducing capacity of certain centers to the current enrollment levels (estimated savings \$15 million);
- Eliminating sub-contracted dental services (estimated savings \$4 million); and

- Transferring funds from the construction account to operations as authorized by the Fiscal Year 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act (estimated savings \$15 million).

I strongly believe that these proposed measures would help balance the budget while preserving the majority of student slots. I also maintain that these alternative cost-saving measures must be implemented in an effort to exhaust all available options before a drastic action such as eliminating must-needed career training opportunities for 3,200 at-risk youth is undertaken.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sanford D. Bishop, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress