



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

February 08, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chair Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

As Congress considers funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, we urge you to include \$50 million to create a National Youth Employment Program. This funding was secured in the House-passed FY 22 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) bill and matches the funding level included in the President’s Budget request.

This new competitive grant program will provide funding for youth employment programs, including summer and year-round opportunities. While we were pleased to see it included in the Senate LHHS bill, the Senate level of funding falls short by \$25 million. The House level of funding ensures that youth and young adults who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and systemic inequality are able to receive the resources and opportunities they need.

Additionally, we ask that you prioritize the need to develop and expand Summer Youth Employment Programs (SYEP’s), a core tenant of the National Youth Employment Program. Studies show that SYEPS’s reduce crime by providing routines, supervision, and reduced economic incentives for criminal activity.¹ Historically, crime in cities dramatically increase during summer months, especially in urban cities.² Ahead of the Summer 2022 season, we must be proactive. In doing so, we must address the root causes of violence: poverty and systemic racism.

We have the chance to do so now by including \$50 million to create a National Youth Employment Program which invests in programs that foster safe, healthy, and hopeful

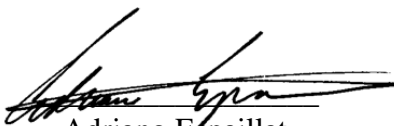
¹ Modestino, Alicia Sasser. “How Can Summer Jobs Reduce Crime among Youth? - Brookings.” *How Can Summer Jobs Reduce Crime among Youth?* , Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, Dec. 2017, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/metro_2018jan_how-can-summer-jobs-reduce-crime-among-youth-final.pdf.

² Kelly, Samantha Murphy. “People Desperate for Covid Tests Are Turning to Resellers Online.” *CNN*, Cable News Network, 10 Jan. 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/07/tech/at-home-covid-19-test-shortage/index.html>.

communities where our youth, principally opportunity youth,³ can learn, dream, and thrive. We encourage and support the House level of funding for the National Youth Employment Program as it more adequately addresses the needs of our youth and our societies. We believe this will be for a historic investment in young people, particularly among young people who have been historically excluded from economic opportunity, including opportunity youth, foster youth, youth of color, youth experiencing homelessness, and young people impacted by the criminal legal system.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/ _____

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/ _____

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ _____

Nydia M. Velazquez
Member of Congress

/s/ _____

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

/s/ _____

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

/s/ _____

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

³ “Opportunity youth” are young people who are between the ages of 16 to 24 years old and are disconnected from school and work.