

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you are aware, on December 11, 2015, I wrote to you requesting information related to the oversight and selection of contractors that operate Job Corps centers across the country. On February 1, 2016, you provided a response to my request consisting of four letters previously provided in response to other Congressional inquiries. Because these letters did not provide answers to my questions, I am writing to renew my request.

Specifically, I requested a complete list of Job Corps center operators since 2005, a detailed accounting of past bonuses or incentive fees paid to those operators, the number of contracts or contractors that have been terminated, suspended, debarred or not renewed due to a failure to provide a safe learning environment and the responsibility determination and past performance review for Adams and Associates to operate the St. Louis Job Corps Center. None of that information was included in your February 1 response. I also requested information related to recent actions taken to improve contractor oversight and the criteria used to judge the overall performance of Job Corps center operators. That information was only partially provided. I ask that you provide me with an updated list of actions taken to improve oversight of contractors' safety and security practices since a Department of Labor Office of Inspector General report was published on February 27, 2015.

I am disappointed the Department of Labor provided recycled responses to other congressional inquiries rather than addressing my questions and document requests. Your response demonstrates a lack of interest in oversight that could explain the apparent inattention to safety issues at Job Corps centers that the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General (DOL IG) and members of Congress have been raising for over a decade.¹ The DOL IG's most recent report on the issue noted that, "Despite audits in 2009 and 2010 that reported the lax enforcement of Job Corps' disciplinary policies, our current audit identified similar concerns."²

The documents that you did provide only reinforce my concerns that Job Corps contractors and the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration have been woefully slow in correcting ongoing safety and security deficiencies. The documents include 47

¹ Job Corps Needs to Improve Enforcement and Oversight of Student Disciplinary Policies to Better Protect Students and Staff at Centers, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General (Feb. 27, 2015) (26-15-001-03-370);

² *Id.*

safety-related complaints that received a response from the National Office of Job Corps, including allegations of student neglect and exploitation, employee intimidation and retaliation and unidentified or misreported zero tolerance disciplinary infractions.

Job Corps is supposed to provide vocational training for disadvantaged children and young adults. The program has had multiple success stories in its 52-year history. Yet, when safety and security problems are allowed to persist, students who have a legitimate desire to better themselves are being robbed of an education and exposed to potential harm.

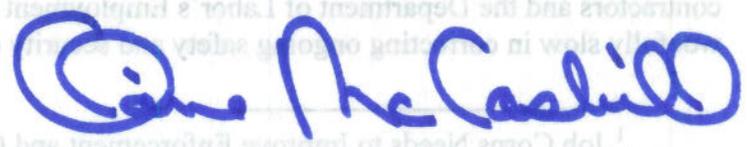
I ask that you take immediate actions to respond to all of the unanswered questions and document requests outlined in my December 11, 2015 letter. In addition, please provide the following:

- 1) The number of zero tolerance, Level I and Level II infractions reported at all Job Corps centers since Feb. 27, 2015 along with the number of student expulsions, discharges and separations since that date;
- 2) A copy of the Show Cause Notice issued to the former operator of the St. Louis Job Corps Center following the deadly shooting at the center April 22, 2015;
- 3) The number, names and locations of all Job Corps centers run by contractors for which the contractor was awarded a sole-source contract;
- 4) The number, names and locations of Job Corps centers run by contractors for which the Department of Labor only solicited bids from 8A companies and small businesses;
- 5) The percentage of the Department of Labor's 8A and small business contracts that are for Job Corps contracts; and
- 6) The percentage of zero-tolerance infractions occurring at Job Corps centers run by 8A contractors or small businesses.

I ask that your office provide the following information and documents as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, April 22, 2016. I am providing my initial December 11, 2015 request as an attachment to this letter. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Please contact Charlie Moskowitz at 202-224-6154 with any questions. Please send official correspondence relating to this request to Charlie_Moskowitz@mcaskill.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senate