



HOUSE WIA REAUTHORIZATION BILL ELIMINATES YOUTH JOBS AND TRAINING

The Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012 (HR 4297) would cut employment and training services for approximately 250,000 young people across the nation. This is the wrong direction for our country at a time when the youth unemployment rate is 16.1% - twice the rate of the general population. For Latino youth ages 16 to 24, that figure jumps to 19.2%, and for African Americans it skyrockets to 25.8% - three times the national average.¹

The Workforce Investment Act and Young Americans

- » The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) system currently serves over 300,000 low-income young Americans each year through three major programs: Job Corps, WIA-Youth Activities, and YouthBuild.
- » Participants benefit from a wide array of services including summer and year-round employment, industry job training, and intensive residential and apprenticeship programs that provide them with appropriate “soft skills” and help them to earn secondary and postsecondary credentials leading to productive jobs.
- » From April 2010 to March 2011, nearly 60 percent of the youth who participated in WIA-Youth Activities were placed in jobs or education, and more than half attained a degree or certificate. Nearly two-thirds of the older youth who were not high school graduates and who exited services were placed in employment or education, or attained a degree or certificate.

What does HR 4297 do?

- » It consolidates 27 federal employment and training programs into a single block grant, the “Workforce Investment Fund (WIF),” allocated to states.
- » **HR 4297 completely eliminates WIA-Youth Activities and YouthBuild, denying employment and training services to over 250,000 young people.**
- » The national Job Corps program is exempted from the WIF consolidation and the Secretary of Labor is required to reserve not more than 28 percent of total appropriations of WIA to carry out the program.
- » While state and local areas have the option to serve youth through the WIF, there is little incentive to do so because HR 4297 does not include performance measures specific to youth. Nor does the bill encourage evidence-based strategies for youth service delivery.
- » HR 4297 also eliminates Youth Councils that work with local businesses, training organizations, nonprofits, schools, youth, parents and other stakeholders to address youth employment issues in their community.

At a time when there are 3.4 million unemployed young people ages 16 to 24,² eliminating employment and training services targeting this population is deeply misguided. Instead, Congress should reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act to facilitate youth engagement through multiple education and employment pathways, promote innovation and best practices, and encourage states and localities to strengthen workforce investment system accountability. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives should reject HR 4297’s dramatic cuts.

Total Served by WIA Youth Activities Program Year 2010 by State³

State	Participants
Alabama	2,301
Alaska	932
Arizona	4,588
Arkansas	2,301
California	29,811
Colorado	2,907
Connecticut	1,565
Delaware	759
Florida	16,045
Georgia	9,065
Hawaii	430
Idaho	1,010
Illinois ⁴	10,322
Indiana	7,164
Iowa	1,449
Kansas	1,328
Kentucky	4,608
Louisiana	3,056
Maine	1,103
Maryland	2,302
Massachusetts	3,586
Michigan	18,030
Minnesota	5,021
Mississippi	4,145
Missouri	6,053

State	Participants
Montana	829
Nebraska	967
Nevada	1,237
New Hampshire	563
New Jersey ⁵	5,007
New Mexico	1,457
New York ⁶	15,201
North Carolina	5,371
North Dakota	675
Ohio	13,240
Oklahoma	1,537
Oregon	3,404
Pennsylvania	8,697
Rhode Island	1,189
South Carolina	4,890
South Dakota	324
Tennessee	10,375
Texas ⁷	13,838
Utah	2,370
Vermont	No Data
Virginia	3,031
Washington	4,074
Wisconsin	2,914
West Virginia	1,152
Wyoming	892

Total:	240,817
---------------	----------------

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH Housed at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), the Campaign for Youth is an alliance of organizations who are concerned about the persistence, yet seeming invisibility, of the challenges confronting more than 6.7 million young people in this nation who are disconnected from education, employment and opportunity. More than 250 organizations have signed on in opposition to HR 4297, Visit www.campaignforyouth.org to view letter and list of organizations.

ABOUT YOUNG INVINCIBLES Young Invincibles is a national organization committed to mobilizing and expanding opportunities for young Americans between 18 and 34 years of age on issues like higher education, health care, and jobs. Visit www.younginvincibles.org for more information.

1. Current Population Survey, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (May 2012).

2. Ibid.

3. "PY10 State by State Performance Summaries." Employment & Training Administration (ETA) - U.S. Department of Labor. <http://www.doleta.gov/performance/results/Reports.cfm?#wastann> (accessed June 25, 2012).

4. "Illinois Workforce Development Annual Report 2011." Employment & Training Administration (ETA) - U.S. Department of Labor. www.doleta.gov/performance/results/AnnualReports/PY2010/IL_PY_2010_State_Data_Book.pdf (accessed June 25, 2012).

5. "State of New Jersey 2010 Annual Report Workforce Investment Act." Employment & Training Administration (ETA) - U.S. Department of Labor. www.doleta.gov/performance/results/AnnualReports/PY2010/NJ_PY_2010_State_Data_Book.pdf (accessed June 25, 2012).

6. "New York State Workforce Development System 2012 Annual Report." Employment & Training Administration (ETA) - U.S. Department of Labor. www.doleta.gov/performance/results/AnnualReports/PY2010/NY_PY_2010_State_Data_Book.pdf (accessed June 25, 2012).

7. "Texas Workforce Commission Workforce Investment Act Annual Report." Employment & Training Administration (ETA) - U.S. Department of Labor. www.doleta.gov/performance/results/AnnualReports/PY2010/TX_PY_2010_State_Data_Book.pdf (accessed June 25, 2012).