

RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA  
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO  
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY  
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA  
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING  
JOHN HOEVEN, NORTH DAKOTA  
STEVE DAINES, MONTANA

CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI  
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE  
JON TESTER, MONTANA  
HEIDI HEITKAMP, NORTH DAKOTA  
GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN  
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
KAMALA D. HARRIS, CALIFORNIA

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
MARGARET E. DAUM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

July 31, 2017

The Honorable Scott S. Dahl  
Inspector General  
United States Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Dahl:

As you are aware, the Job Corps program has provided vocational and academic training to at-risk youths for more than five decades. The program has thousands of success stories, however, in recent years, it has also been plagued by reports of violence and student misconduct, including the April 2015 murder of a 21-year-old student at the St. Louis Job Corps Center.<sup>1</sup> While Job Corps has made strides toward improving center safety and security, problems persist.

According to a March 31, 2017, review by your office, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General (OIG), 40% of the potentially serious criminal misconduct incidents logged at 11 Job Corps centers between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 were not reported to local law enforcement.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, center operators did not report 34% of significant incidents to Job Corps' national and regional offices.<sup>3</sup> And appropriate disciplinary action was either not taken or not properly recorded in 31% of the serious misconduct cases the OIG analyzed.<sup>4</sup>

The results of the latest review are concerning given similar findings in 2009, 2010, and 2015 program audits. The OIG in February 2015 stated that "center management did not consistently enforce Job Corps' disciplinary policies, and Job Corps did not provide adequate oversight to ensure center compliance," adding, "despite audits in 2009 and 2010 that reported

---

<sup>1</sup> *St. Louis Job Corps Student Describes Encounter With Suspect in Killing There*, St. Louis Post-Dispatch (April 24, 2015) ([http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/st-louis-job-corps-student-describes-encounter-with-suspect-in/article\\_2b40a723-dcac-5377-838a-4b0d04465669.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/st-louis-job-corps-student-describes-encounter-with-suspect-in/article_2b40a723-dcac-5377-838a-4b0d04465669.html)).

<sup>2</sup> Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, *Review of Job Corps Center Safety and Security* (26-17-001-03-370) (March 31, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

the lax enforcement of Job Corps' disciplinary policies, our current audit identified similar concerns."<sup>5</sup>

On July 1, 2016, Job Corps implemented a revised Zero Tolerance policy in an effort to increase student accountability and ensure center staff appropriately responds to misconduct allegations.<sup>6</sup> In response to the March 2017 OIG review, DOL's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training indicated that Job Corps has taken steps to ensure that centers report potentially serious criminal misconduct to law enforcement and report significant incidents to Job Corps' national and regional offices.<sup>7</sup>

I recognize that significant changes have been made to Job Corps' policies, including its Zero Tolerance policy, following the January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 time period the OIG analyzed in its latest review. However, I remain concerned about threats to student safety and well-being at Job Corps centers. Therefore, I respectfully request an updated review of Job Corps' enforcement and oversight of student disciplinary policies following implementation of the new Zero Tolerance policy on July 1, 2016.

Please include in your review, from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017:

- 1) The number of Level I Zero Tolerance infractions that occurred at Job Corps centers;
- 2) The percentage of potentially serious criminal misconduct incidents that were reported to law enforcement;
- 3) The number of Level I Zero Tolerance infractions that were reported to Job Corps' national and regional offices;
- 4) The number of Fact-Finding Boards that were assembled in response to Level I Zero Tolerance infractions;
- 5) The number of cases in which a student was deemed responsible for a Level I Zero Tolerance infraction;
- 6) The number of student expulsions, discharges, and separations that occurred or were initiated; and

---

<sup>5</sup> Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, *Job Corps Needs to Improve Enforcement and Oversight of Student Disciplinary Policies to Better Protect Students and Staff at Centers* (26-15-001-03-370) (Feb. 27, 2015).

<sup>6</sup> Government Accountability Office, *Job Corps: Preliminary Observations on Student Safety and Security Data* (GAO-17-596T) (June 22, 2017).

<sup>7</sup> Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, *Review of Job Corps Center Safety and Security* (26-17-001-03-370) (March 31, 2017).

The Honorable Scott S. Dahl  
July 31, 2017  
Page 3 of 3

- 7) The number – and names – of any contracts or contractors that were suspended or debarred for failure to comply with Job Corps' safety and security policies.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions related to this request, please contact Joel Walsh at (202) 224-5618 or [Joel\\_Walsh@hsgac.senate.gov](mailto:Joel_Walsh@hsgac.senate.gov). Please send any official correspondence related to this request to [Amanda\\_Trosen@hsgac.senate.gov](mailto:Amanda_Trosen@hsgac.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson  
Chairman