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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director  
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July 14, 2015

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable Lenita Jacobs-Simmons  
Administrator  
Job Corps

The Honorable Scott Dahl  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Labor

Dear Administrator Jacobs-Simmons and Inspector General Dahl:

I am writing concerning Job Corps, a federal program that is designed to equip disadvantaged teens and young adults with education and vocational training. On February 27, 2015, the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (DOL OIG) released a report which identified systematic weaknesses in ensuring safety at the 125 Job Corps centers across the country.<sup>1</sup> Job Corps concurred with all of the recommendations suggested by DOL OIG.<sup>2</sup> Yet, as recently as April 2015, a 20-year-old Job Corps student was charged with first-degree murder and armed criminal action after allegedly shooting another Job Corps student in the chest while the latter lay in his dorm room bed.<sup>3</sup>

This disturbing fact follows an October 2012 incident in which a 20-year-old female student at the Job Corps center in Troutdale, Oregon was raped by a male security guard after he drove her to the Job Corps campus.<sup>4</sup> The guard, Gerard Rudich, pled guilty to first degree rape in September 2014. Job Corps allegedly hired Rudich despite the fact that he lacked certification as a security guard and had a criminal history of prostitution and fraud.<sup>5</sup>

These shocking events are in addition to the problems identified in the DOL OIG report. Some of the most concerning findings were the lack of reporting and investigation of serious offenses.<sup>6</sup> In addition, DOL OIG found that Job Corps failed to comply with its own zero tolerance policy, creating an unsafe environment that has led to further infractions.<sup>7</sup> The report cited an August 2014 news story concerning youth who were subject to routine violence, sex abuse, and drug abuse at the Job Corps center in McKinney, Texas.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, DOL OIG

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Report No. 26-15-001-03-370, "Job Corps Needs to Improve Enforcement and Oversight of Students Disciplinary Policies to Better Protect Students and Staff at Centers" (Feb. 27, 2015), [hereinafter "DOL OIG Report"], at 9, 16.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 20.

<sup>3</sup> Paul Hampel, "St. Louis Corps Student Describes Encounter with Suspect In Killing There," *St. Louis Today*, April 24, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Aimee Green, "Springdale Job Corps Sued for \$7.5 Million after Security Guard Rapes Student, 20," *The Oregonian*, September 5, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> DOL OIG Report, at 1.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 12-13, 15.

<sup>8</sup> Becky Oliver, "Investigation: Trouble at the Job Corps," *Fox4 News*, August 4, 2014; DOL OIG Report, at 17.

conducted seven audits in 2009 and 2010, where it found that Job Corps did not enforce its disciplinary policies, but instead allowed dangerous students to remain in the program, which both exposed other students and staff to harm and prevented more committed students from entering the program.<sup>9</sup> Significantly, DOL OIG noted that the disciplinary issues present in these audits impacted all 125 Job Corps centers.<sup>10</sup>

The allegations against Job Corps since the DOL OIG report was released require your immediate attention. In addition, the Committee would like to ensure that Job Corps is effectively and consistently implementing the recommendations in the DOL OIG report. Accordingly, please provide responses to the following questions by July 31, 2015:

1. Administrator Jacobs-Simmons:

- a. What is the status of implementing the recommendations outlined in the February 2015 DOL OIG Report?
- b. Other than implementation of the DOL OIG's recommendations, what are you doing to ensure the safety of participants and staff at Job Corps centers?
- c. Since January 1, 2009, how many safety-related complaints has Job Corps received?

2. Inspector General Dahl:

- a. Will you investigate allegations of post-February 2015 abuses occurring at Job Corps centers? If so, please contact my staff to arrange an interview with a whistleblower who may be able to provide helpful information.
- b. Since the February 27, 2015 report, how many allegations concerning safety of Job Corps participants or employees has your office received? Please provide a detailed description of each allegation and whether the allegation in question was substantiated.
- c. Since January 1, 2009, how many allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement has your office received regarding the Job Corps program? Please provide a detailed description of each allegation and whether the allegation in question was substantiated.

Please number your responses according to their corresponding questions. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Lim of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

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<sup>9</sup> DOL OIG Report, at 16–17.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*