

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We write to you concerning the Department of Labor's (DOL) decision not to resume student enrollment at the Penobscot Job Corps Center (Penobscot) and the Loring Job Corps Center (Loring) in Maine. The April 7, 2025, Change Order under Contract 1605JE-21-C-0010 is still in effect for both Penobscot and Loring. As a result, these centers believe that they are the only two in the nation that are currently unable to enroll students after DOL resumed background checks for all other centers on August 20, 2025.

The inability of Maine's Centers to enroll new students since April 1, 2025, has limited their operations significantly. Penobscot has 104 students currently enrolled and is operating at only 38 percent capacity, while Loring has 80 students currently enrolled and is operating at 31 percent capacity. According to Loring, they have 60 applications pending in various stages. Due to the enrollment freeze, applicants cannot be assigned to Loring through their My Job Corps system as the Center is not listed as an option for assignment. Loring graduates five to seven students per month, while Penobscot graduates a class of students every eleven months. At this rate, neither Center is likely to have students on site within the next one to two years if the Change Order to halt student enrollment is not rescinded.

The Loring Center opened in 1997, just a few years after the closure of the Loring Air Force Base. The students enrolled at Loring have chosen this site because its rural location helps them focus on their education and training. Loring has a strong relationship with the shipbuilding industry at both Bath Iron Works (BIW) and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY), two locations in Maine where ships are built, and submarines are overhauled and refueled for our country's Navy. Just last month, a student graduated from Loring's electrical program and gained employment at BIW. Penobscot also has a strong relationship with BIW, PNSY, and the shipbuilding industry. Penobscot is home to the only Advanced Marine Pipefitting training program in Job Corps, which is a feeder program for future BIW and PNSY employees.

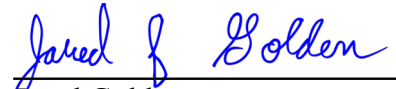
The Loring and Penobscot Job Corps Centers have compiled an impressive record of success in preparing disadvantaged youth for the workplace or higher education. Preventing Maine's Job Corps Centers from enrolling new students is unacceptable. We urge you to use your authority as Secretary to rescind the April 7, 2025, Change Order under Contract 1605JE-21-C-0010 so that enrollment may resume immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to address this important matter.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jared Golden
Member of Congress