

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 13

Introduced by Assembly Member Hueso

(Principal coauthor: Senator Steinberg)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Atkins, Brown, Lowenthal, and Pan)

(Coauthors: Senators Leno and Wright)

February 21, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 13—Relative to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 13, as introduced, Hueso. Labor: Job Corps centers.

This measure would state that the Legislature supports the Congressional action to reverse the suspension of new student enrollments in Job Corps, to prevent any limits to student enrollment until other cost-saving measures have been exhausted, and to maintain the full range of educational and employment services provided by Job Corps.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The State of California serves the largest proportion
2 of Job Corps students administered by the United States
3 Department of Labor. Currently, there are seven Job Corps centers
4 located in California in the Cities of San Francisco, San Jose,
5 Sacramento, Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San
6 Diego; and

7 WHEREAS, These seven Job Corps centers provide a vital piece
8 of California's workforce development system by serving 5,373
9 disadvantaged youth between 16 and 24 years of age, inclusive,

1 by providing high school diplomas and career technical education
2 to young men and women, all of whom come from very low
3 income households and are unemployed or underemployed; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to academic and employment training,
5 these Job Corps centers provide social skills training and other
6 services to empower these young men and women to obtain and
7 hold a job, enroll in advanced training, attend college, or enter the
8 Armed Forces to defend the interests of the United States around
9 the world; and

10 WHEREAS, Over 8,000 former dropouts have received fully
11 accredited public high school diplomas at the Job Corps centers
12 and thousands more unemployed youth have received career
13 training and job placement assistance; and

14 WHEREAS, The young men and women who participate in Job
15 Corps gain job skills for well-paying careers in construction, health
16 care, culinary arts, security services, and other employment sectors
17 vital to the California economy; and

18 WHEREAS, Recent studies demonstrate a significant economic
19 gain from funds invested in dropout recovery by increasing
20 employment, raising individual earnings, improving home and
21 auto sales, increased job and economic growth, greater spending
22 and investments, and tax revenues, and significant reductions in
23 health care costs, crime prevention and corrections expenditures,
24 and other social services provided by California; and

25 WHEREAS, The National Job Corps Association reports that
26 the combined economic activity stimulated by the Job Corps
27 centers in California is \$243,726,519, and that 2,971 local jobs are
28 created by the operation of the Job Corps centers in California;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor is entrusted
31 to serve the disadvantaged youth in America. However, the United
32 States Department of Labor recently decided to suspend all new
33 student enrollments to Job Corps centers in California and
34 throughout the 125 Job Corps centers serving the nation, which
35 would prevent as many as 30,000 otherwise eligible young men
36 and women from receiving diplomas and job training; and

37 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor's decision
38 appears to be inequitably balancing a budget shortfall on the backs
39 of the disadvantaged youth it is entrusted to serve when other
40 alternatives are available for closing the shortfall; and

1 WHEREAS, Seventy-one members of the United States House
2 of Representatives and seventeen members of the United States
3 Senate have sent a bipartisan letter asking Acting Secretary and
4 Deputy Secretary of Labor, Seth D. Harris, to reverse the
5 suspension of new student enrollments in order to protect the
6 opportunities provided to the nation’s most disadvantaged youth
7 and to prevent further economic damage to the communities served
8 by the Job Corps; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
10 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature supports the United States
11 congressional action to reverse the suspension of new student
12 enrollments in the Job Corps, to prevent any limits to student
13 enrollment until other cost-saving measures have been exhausted,
14 and to maintain the full range of educational and employment
15 services provided by the Job Corps; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
18 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
19 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
20 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
21 States.