

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting the well-being and positive development of the nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, 5.5 million U.S. youth ages 16 to 24 in our cities are neither in school nor have a job, and this number of disconnected youth continued to grow; and

WHEREAS, across the nation young people face an employment crisis; and the unemployment rate for young adults between the ages of 16 -24 is more than twice the national unemployment rate; and

WHEREAS, disconnected youth often lack the stable support systems they need to thrive and too often, find themselves homeless or in the justice system and adrift at the margins of society, as documented in several independent analyses; and

WHEREAS, many of our disconnected youth are actively seeking employment, but are often unsuccessful, even for the most basic positions, because they lack the skills necessary to compete in today's job market, further increasing their probability of experiencing chronic unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the personal and collective costs of youth disconnection are steep; and young adults who are not in school or work cost taxpayers \$93 billion annual and \$1.6 trillion over their lifetimes in lost revenues and increased services; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors have long advocated for a strong summer jobs programs; and

WHEREAS, the value of work experience for youth has been well documented, and national studies have demonstrated that youth employment has positive impacts on high school graduation rates, college-going rates, and future earnings; and

WHEREAS, summer jobs programs have the added benefits of reducing violence in cities and communities; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, youth who miss out on an early work experience are more likely to endure future unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2018 Congressional budget did not contain funding for summer jobs programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I year-round youth activities at authorized levels so states, local areas, and other partners can fully realize the bipartisan vision outlined by WIOA and bring more out-of-school youth productively into the workforce; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to restore its long-term commitment to a strong summer jobs program, by establishing separate ongoing funding for youth summer jobs programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:

- invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
- encourage employees to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools;
- work with education and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to workforce trends; and
- collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify high-growth job trends.

Projected Cost: