
JOB CORPS

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**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Hearing on HB 2455 Jan 23, 2020
Written and Oral Testimony in Support of HB 2455
on behalf Flint Hills Job Corps
by Johnny Taylor, Center Director**

The Honorable Sean Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

I would like to thank the members of the committee for your consideration of this important bill. I have worked at Flint Hills Job Corps program for 24 years and served as the Center Director for 3 years. HB 2455 represents a groundbreaking move to ensure that Job Corps students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their competence and value to employers throughout the state of Kansas.

Job Corps works in concert with the US Department of Labor and the Kansas Department of Labor to ensure we are training students in the most in-demand occupations in Kansas. It is my honor to serve on the Governors Education Council and the subcommittee on Workforce Development, in that capacity we are working to align systems to both prepare students for the workforce and ensure employers are receiving the quality of employees with the skills they need to be effective workers.

Work-Based Learning is a critical component to the overall success of Job Corps and greatly improves the placement of graduating students into the workforce. Throughout the Work-Based Learning period students get the hands-on experience they need to sharpen their skills but also develop the soft skill, or what we call “power skills”, necessary to be dependable leaders at the job site.

This type of partnership allows for employers to give feedback directly to Job Corps staff in order to help fine-tune the skills that a particular student may need more work on before fully entering the workforce.

We appreciate your support on this ground-breaking partnership. We know Kansas can lead the country with innovative partnerships like those incentivized in HB 2455 that will help attract and retain young people to our state.