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June 14, 2018

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Acosta:

The opioid epidemic is a public health emergency that affects Americans from all walks of life and from all parts of the country. The alarming reality is that far too many Americans die from opioid misuse and overdose every day. While the opioid epidemic is a multigenerational problem affecting Americans of all ages, our country's young adults are at particular risk. As we look for ways to stem the effects of the opioid crisis on families and communities, employment and employment opportunities provide individuals the potential to rebuild themselves as they recover from their addiction.

The prospect of a job increases hope and encourages Americans recovering from and responding to the opioid epidemic, and a robust local economy also helps a community rebuild itself. Leveraging our existing workforce development infrastructure to provide Americans the skills they need to overcome addiction and pursue their American dream is a critical part of combating this epidemic. In order to achieve this end, we call on you to use the authority provided by section 156 of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* to harness the capabilities of the Job Corps program to improve recovery and employment outcomes for young Americans. Under this authority, we urge you to consider dedicating existing Job Corps centers to serve the needs of youth in recovery and to prepare young adults to enter professions that will help their communities defeat the scourge of addiction.

We look forward to working with you to address the opioid epidemic. If you have any questions, please contact James Redstone (james.redstone@mail.house.gov) with the Committee at (202)-225-6558.

Sincerely,

Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman

Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress