

Who Wants to Change The World?

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Education Committee Public Hearing on February 28, 2007 - Testimony

I am speaking in support of SB913 – Act Concerning a Connecticut Youth Corp. I think it will benefit teenagers and also our communities. The Connecticut Youth Corps would give various public service jobs around the state to teenagers during the summer after junior year.

We teenagers would benefit by:

- 1) Learning how to hold a job, giving us a better work ethic.
- 2) Expanding our knowledge and experience about job opportunities. With this program, a teenager from the inner city of Bridgeport might be able to work out in the countryside. Or maybe a rural teenager might come to an urban setting and coach basketball in a youth league. Or kids could work in their own towns helping people they may not know much about such as at a Day Care Center. When teenagers are working with adults, they also get to see what jobs the adults hold and can consider them for themselves. With this program teenagers' abilities will expand allowing them to look for jobs in multiple areas of work instead of just one.
- 3) Keeping kids busy and possibly out of trouble that comes from just hanging around.

Our state and our community will benefit greatly from the CT Youth Corp. We will be able to get more done with all the extra hands. Types of things that kids could do might be:

- 1) Fix up or build new playgrounds
- 2) Clean up trash in the parks and on the beaches.
- 3) Run children's programs – maybe sports leagues, maybe book clubs.
- 4) Help elderly people by bringing them food, sitting and reading to them, doing errands such as taking out the garbage or lifting heavy things for them.

Some programs already exist that allow teenagers to work, however, they are not big enough. For example, my brother wants to do the Stamford Fire Cadet program, but they don't know if it will be available this year. Even if it is, they can't hire every kid who wants to do it. This law will improve this so more kids will have access to jobs they are interested in.

This law will benefit everyone. The state will have more workers and be able to accomplish more projects. The community will improve because of all the work being done to make it more suitable for human life. The teenagers will gain work experience and they will expand their horizons. If this law is passed Connecticut will benefit.

Thank you for considering the Connecticut Youth Corp.