

**Urging The New York State Governor and The New York State Legislature To Fund YouthBuild Program**

Legislators Provenzano and Bischoff offer the following:

WHEREAS, The YouthBuild Program works with unemployed young adults, ages 16-24 to build affordable housing for homeless and low-income families in their communities with a combination of classroom instruction and construction site work where the youth earn their GED or high school diploma, learn to be community leaders and prepare for jobs or college, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the YouthBuild Program is to unleash the positive energy of unemployed young adults to rebuild their communities and their own lives with a commitment to work, education, responsibility, and family, and

WHEREAS, nationwide, 89% of YouthBuild students enter the program without high school diplomas and 31% receive public assistance prior to joining YouthBuild, and 60% of participants complete the program, and 86% of graduates go on to college or jobs, and

WHEREAS, the average cost per participant statewide is about \$16,000 a year which is less than alternatives including the military, prisons, boot camps, job corps, or most colleges, and

WHEREAS, Federal funding has dropped to less than half the level in 2000, and

WHEREAS, there are 15 operating YouthBuild programs in New York State, and 1,293 students have graduated, and there are an additional 1,285 students on program waiting lists, and

WHEREAS, New York has an average of 390,091 young adults a year between the ages of 16 and 24 who have dropped out of school or are unemployed, and

WHEREAS, sources<sup>1</sup> indicate that 68% of high school drop outs serve time in prison, and

WHEREAS, there are 226 YouthBuild programs nationwide in 44 states, many of which receive funding through their State government, and

WHEREAS, New York YouthBuild programs have not received any state funding, despite the fact that YouthBuild was founded in New York.

**Resolution No. 228 June 13, 2007**

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges State funding of New York YouthBuild Demonstration Program A5639/S3015 and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Eliot Spitzer, New York State Comptroller's Office, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31            NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Felicello)  
(Legislator Stoeckeler left at 8:05 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

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Notes:

1. November 20, 2006 ABC News and World Report with Charles Gibson.